

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County City and County of Broomfield Jefferson County
City of Arvada City of Boulder City of Westminster Town of Superior

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February 25, 2002

Governor Bill Owens
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Owens:

As the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, we are writing concerning the ongoing delays of shipments of plutonium metals and oxides to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.

The Coalition comprises the seven local governments that surround Rocky Flats and collectively we represent approximately 800,000 people. As you know, one of the key commitments DOE has continually made to the state of Colorado and to our communities is to safely and expeditiously clean up Rocky Flats. We join other elected officials in expressing our concern that the 2006 timeline is now needlessly jeopardized by the ongoing dispute over the disposition of plutonium metals and oxides.

The delay in removing these materials from Rocky Flats draws into question commitments DOE made to our communities to clean up Rocky Flats in 2006. We appreciate steps the Administration has taken to solve this complex international issue, including full funding in the President's budget. We however remain concerned that with the elimination of a disposal pathway for material slated for immobilization and delays in shipping metals suitable for MOX fuel, we are moving backwards instead of forward in cleaning up and closing down Rocky Flats in 2006. It further appears DOE is making decisions with little or no substantive accountability to our communities.

We appreciate steps you have taken to resolve this dispute, and understand you are evaluating options of how best to hold DOE accountable for shipping metals and oxides to off-site locations. While we do not know the details of those deliberations, we certainly encourage you to take all necessary, reasonable, and prudent steps in order to ensure that the commitment to our communities is upheld.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
Michelle Lawrence
Jefferson County

/s/
Sam Dixion
City of Westminster

/s/
Lisa Morzel
City of Boulder

/s/
Hank Stovall
City and County of Broomfield

/s/
Lorraine Anderson
City of Arvada

/s/
Karen Imbierowicz
Town of Superior

/s/
Paul Danish
Boulder County

cc: Sen. Wayne Allard
Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Rep. Mark Udall
Rep. Tom Tancredo
Secretary Spencer Abraham, DOE