

# Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

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## **Letter sent to entire Colorado congressional delegation**

The Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments has been tracking with great interest actions and discussions related to the successful cleanup and closure of the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats nuclear facility. As elected officials from the seven municipalities adjacent to Rocky Flats, the Coalition Board is concerned about a recent report calling on Congress and the DOE to cease cleanup activities at numerous nuclear facilities, including Rocky Flats.

Recently, a senior fellow with the Competitive Enterprise Institute published a paper in which he argues that cleanup results in little or no risk reduction with high costs to the tax payers, and that, as such, Congress and DOE should terminate cleanup activities. He concludes that Rocky Flats and the other sites should be *de facto* abandoned as national sacrifice zones managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Coalition strongly believes this approach is reckless and irresponsible and, if followed, would directly lead to serious human health and environmental problems. The Coalition would remind the author of the report that unlike other DOE sites that lie in more remote regions, two million people live within 50 miles of Rocky Flats. Due to the proximity of the site to our communities and the extent and nature of the contamination, the Board remains committed to the safe and timely cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats. Anything short of a thorough cleanup to levels that are protective of human health and the environment would be unacceptable.

Additionally, as captured in "The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001", the Coalition believes it is feasible and pragmatic to first clean up Rocky Flats and subsequently designate the site as a refuge. We strongly support both a complete cleanup and the designation of Rocky Flats as a national wildlife refuge, and take great exception to any arguments that one would or should come at the expense of the other.

Should this report or similar arguments be brought to your attention, we would urge you to stay the course and continue to push for a thorough cleanup and refuge designation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Paul Danish  
Chairman

