

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

RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of the ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS regarding SUPPORT FOR THE ROCKY FLATS COLD WAR MUSEUM

WHEREAS, the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments is a separate legal, public entity, created by an intergovernmental agreement, as permitted by Colo. Const. Art. XIV, and section 18(2), part 2 of article 1, title 29, C.R.S., among seven Colorado local governments, Boulder County, Jefferson County, the City of Arvada, the City of Boulder, the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Westminster, and the Town of Superior (collectively, the “Coalition”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Coalition, consistent with public health, safety and welfare, is to provide an effective mechanism for local governments in the vicinity of Rocky Flats and their citizens to work together on issues of mutual concern relating to the safe, prompt and effective cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats, its future use and long-term stewardship, and to serve as a focal point for local government communication and advocacy with state and federal agencies regarding Rocky Flats; and

WHEREAS, the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant was built in 1951 in northern Jefferson County to produce plutonium cores for nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal as part of the nation’s nuclear weapons complex; and

WHEREAS, Rocky Flats was an important part of the local, national and international history of the Cold War, the central conflict of the second half of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Rocky Flats provided stable jobs and economic development in the northwest Denver Metropolitan Area for more than 50 years during the plant’s operation and subsequent closure and cleanup; and

WHEREAS, controversy surrounding the nature and consequences of Rocky Flats’ mission and operations stimulated news media coverage and social protest for decades; and

WHEREAS, operations at Rocky Flats produced significant legacies for local communities, the state of Colorado, the United States, and the world; and

WHEREAS, completion of active remediation in 2005 does not end the Department of Energy's obligations as the Department will have important and long-standing obligations, including managing remedies, hosting the administrative record, collecting and disseminating to the Rocky Flats stakeholders monitoring data; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and Congress have an established record of providing funding for such museums, including at one site managed by the Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management; and

WHEREAS, the National Research Council in its August 2000 report to Congress on the challenges facing long-term stewardship of former Department of Energy weapons factories identified maintenance of institutional memory as a critical component in post-closure care of such sites; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum has made important progress in the past four years towards its ultimate goal of creating a facility that will commemorate and interpret the history and legacies of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum will aim to (1) provide educational programming interpretive exhibitions for K-12 school groups and the general public, (2) host meetings and conferences concerning Rocky Flats issues, and (3) generally foster public dialogue about this history of Rocky Flats and ongoing management needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Coalition Board supports the development of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, including documenting the history and legacies (e.g., social, scientific, political, economic, and environmental) of Rocky Flats operations, which would include artifacts and oral histories of this site.
2. The Coalition Board believes the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum can help the Department of Energy meet its responsibilities for long-term stewardship at Rocky Flats by helping citizens understand the history of Rocky Flats and providing a mechanism and a forum to educate future generations about ongoing management needs at Rocky Flats.
3. The Coalition concurs with the National Research Council's conclusion that maintenance of institutional memory is of paramount importance and believes the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum can assist in meeting this important challenge.
4. The Coalition Board urges the Department of Energy and Congress to provide funding to help develop and maintain the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, and ensure such funds do not compromise ongoing federal obligations concerning long-term management of the Rocky Flats site, including but not limited to monitoring and maintenance of ongoing remedies.

Passed and adopted this 2nd day of May, 2005

ATTEST:

ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS

/s/

/s/

By: Shaun McGrath
Its: Chairman