

# Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

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

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March 12, 2001

Mr. Paul Golan  
Deputy Manager  
Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Field Office  
10808 Highway 93 Unit A  
Golden, CO 80403-8200

Dear Mr. Golan:

The Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments has been discussing the Site's plan to reduce the Protected Area (PA) later this month. While individual governments hold differing views on this plan, they have asked me to reiterate their overarching position.

The Coalition shares the Site's objective of ensuring that all special nuclear materials (SNM) are stored in the safest manner possible. We understand that by consolidating SNM into Building 371, the Site will increase security of these materials. The Board supports this objective and trusts that consolidating these materials in 371 will achieve the stated goal.

The Board's unease, however, relates to the remaining level of security for holdup of contaminated materials. We understand that the PA was constructed to protect SNM and not to serve as an extra measure of protection for the materials remaining in the plutonium buildings. Nonetheless, the PA has served to provide an additional level of protection for these radioactive and hazardous materials, ensuring that materials are not removed from the Site unless in accordance with approved Site plans.

Numerous concerns have been brought to our attention that once the PA is reduced, the remaining controls may not be sufficient to guard against theft. We ask that you take these concerns seriously. The Coalition likewise expects that regardless of the security configuration the Site deploys through closure, the Department of Energy will continue to protect our communities. On this point, the Board not only agrees but also believes it is of paramount importance.

Sincerely,

/s/

David M. Abelson  
Executive Director

cc: Dan Chesshir, Guards union  
Tony DiMaiori, Steelworkers union  
Jody Giacomini, Kaiser-Hill