

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County City of Broomfield Jefferson County
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December 20, 2000

Mr. Gregory Friedman
Department of Energy, Office of the Inspector General
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Friedman:

The Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments is extremely concerned about recent safety lapses at the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. The Coalition consists of the seven local governments that border Rocky Flats, and collectively represents approximately 800,000 people, including the majority of current Rocky Flats workers.

Over the past few months, there has been a marked increase in worker safety violations at Rocky Flats, most recently with 10 workers being exposed in Building 771. The events in Building 771 forced site personnel to issue a building-wide work stoppage, a dramatic step that the Coalition Board understands is reserved for serious safety violations. DOE has confirmed it has forwarded to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) information related to activities in Building 771. It is also the Board's understanding that the information may relate to the worker exposures in Building 771, and that in response the OIG will be conducting an initial review. These exposures and related safety violations are of great concern, and while the Coalition Board supports the accelerated cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats, safety cannot be compromised. For this reason, the Coalition firmly supports a thorough investigation of these safety violations.

We formally request your office keep the Coalition Board apprised of the OIG's initial review, including any decision to formally launch an investigation. The Coalition Board further requests that to the extent allowable by law, your office keep them apprised of the OIG's findings.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/
Michelle Lawrence
Chairman

/s/
David Abelson
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Mazurowski, DOE
Tony DeMaiori, Rocky Flats Steelworkers
Senator Wayne Allard
Representative Mark Udall
Representative Bob Schaffer
Representative Tom Tancredo
Governor Bill Owens
Bob Card, Kaiser-Hill
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board