

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Jefferson County -- Boulder County -- City and County of Broomfield -- City of Arvada -- City of Boulder
City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Thornton -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

February 4, 2013

To Colorado Congressional Delegation


Re: Compensation for former Rocky Flats nuclear workers

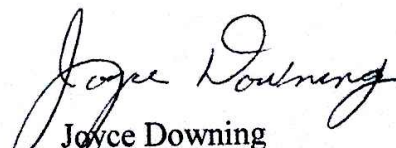
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, we are once again writing to voice our support, and the support of our constituents and members, for Congress taking strong action to strengthen the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). The EEOICPA, which was approved with strong bipartisan support, is critical to ensuring that workers at current and former nuclear weapons facilities, including Rocky Flats, are appropriately compensated for health impacts resulting from their service. Unfortunately, and unnecessarily, workers have faced numerous roadblocks as they have sought just compensation under the law.


Amendments to the EEOICPA are needed, but will not come without cost. The vast majority of Stewardship Council members are elected officials, and we appreciate the fiscal challenges Congress faces in addressing the economy and getting deficit spending under control. However, these workers cannot and should not be viewed as an economic cost. They should be viewed as people who worked for the security of this country, who were made sick due to workplace exposures. These individuals and their families must live with the consequences and challenges of these illnesses on a daily basis.

Moreover, Congress did not caveat the EEOICPA by saying compensation would be paid only in strong fiscal times. What Congress determined was that workers would be compensated for illnesses resulting from their defense mission work. We therefore respectfully request that the delegation work together and with colleagues representing other Department of Energy facilities to develop and secure passage of legislation aimed at strengthening the EEOICPA.

Sincerely,


Bob Briggs
Chair
City of Westminster


Joyce Downing
Vice Chair
City of Northglenn


Deb Gardner
Secretary/Treasurer
Boulder County