

To: Rocky Flats Stewardship Council
From: LeRoy Moore, PhD
Re.: Risk of plutonium at Rocky Flats
Date: February 6, 2017

On August 8, 2016, Phil Taylor published a wide-ranging article about the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Greenwire, E & E Publishing). I am quoted saying that inhaling one particle of plutonium “could wreck your health.” The author then quotes David Abelson calling this “fearmongering” and “scare tactics.”

Why does Mr. Abelson, who heads an organization that supposedly serves the public, say such things? In fact I was reporting the findings of Tom K. Hei and colleagues from Columbia University, who in an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (vol. 94, April 1997) said that taking a single plutonium particle into the body can be harmful, possibly fatal. I also had in mind *Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation*, otherwise called BEIR VII (Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation), Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2006. The most extensive study of its kind to date, it concluded on p. 246 that any exposure to ionizing radiation is potentially harmful. My remarks quoted in Phil Taylor’s article are not scare tactics. They report findings of scientific studies published in one case 19 years ago and in the other 10 years ago.

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