

To: Rocky Flats Stewardship Council
From: LeRoy Moore
Response to CDPHE statements (italicized)

CDPHE intends to present 6 statements addressing “Myths and Misunderstandings” concerning Rocky Flats at the February 5th Rocky Flats Stewardship Council meeting.

1. *Statement: The level of radiation at Rocky Flats is abnormal and dangerous.* The principal contaminant and source of radiation at Rocky Flats is plutonium-239. Plutonium is very rare in nature, found only in a small amount in Gabon. The plutonium at Rocky Flats is a human product, produced in reactors in Hanford, Washington, or Savannah River, South Carolina. Physicist Fritjof Capra of the University of California, Berkeley, calls it “the most dangerous of the radioactive byproducts. ... it remains poisonous for at least 500,000 years.”¹

2. *Statement: Rocky Flats data and records are not available to the public.* After the trial of Rockwell International, Judge Sherman Finesilver sealed 65 cartons of evidence of environmental crime collected in the FBI raid on Rocky Flats in 1989. In 2004 Senator Mark Udall got the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, John Suthers, to give permission for the documents to be reviewed by EPA and CDPHE. They never requested to see the documents.² This material was not reviewed for the cleanup, and it has never been available to the public.

3. *Statement: No standards have been established by EPA or CDPHE for airborne radionuclides.* I am not familiar with the standards, but I know that after completion of the cleanup air sampling ended.

4. *Statement: Parkway construction will entrain plutonium in air and will certainly endanger populations.* AEC scientists P. W. Krey and E. P. Hardy showed that the highest concentration of plutonium at Rocky Flats was along the eastern boundary of the site, in the area intended for construction of the Jefferson Parkway. To quote Capra’s view on plutonium again, “Less than one-millionth of a gram – an invisible dose – is carcinogenic. One pound, if uniformly distributed, could potentially induce lung cancer in every person on earth.”³

5. *Statement: The distribution and risk of off-site contamination is unknown.* CDPHE obviously doesn’t know the distribution and risk of off-site contamination. In response to a recent request from attorney Nicholas Hansen of the Rocky Flats Downwinders, CDPHE issued a report with a map of its shaded study area. When compared to a map published in 1976 *Health Physics* by AEC scientist P. W. Krey, the CDPHE map shows that their study averaged data from non-contaminated areas with contaminated ones and totally ignores large contaminated areas.⁴

6. *Statement: CDPHE is not enforcing regulations when it takes no action following surface water quality exceedances at the points of compliance.* I have no data on this topic, but it appears that the statement is correct. What is needed is a formal statement by CDPHE showing water quality exceedances and how CDPHE responds.

¹ Capra, *The Turning Point* (NY: Simon & Schuster, 1982), p. 245.

² “Passing the Buck,” *Denver Post*, April 20, 2004; and Ann Imse, *Rocky Mountain News*, April 20, 2004.

³ Capra, *Ibid.*, pp. 246-247.

⁴ I could send a brief article on this to anyone who requests it.