

## **Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 95-16**

**to Department of Energy Assistant Secretary Tom Grumbly**

### **Recommendation that DOE Consider Construction of New Facilities for Storage of Rocky Flats Plutonium**

**Approved December 1, 1995**

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On September 7, 1995, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board sent a paper presenting a framework for your upcoming decision regarding consolidation and storage of plutonium at Rocky Flats. We now offer the following recommendations.

Many people in Colorado favor getting the plutonium now at Rocky Flats off-site and out of the Denver metro area at the earliest possible date. We recognize, however, that DOE has no repository ready to receive this material after it has been stabilized and that it thus is likely to remain at Rocky Flats for some time. Because of the uncertainties surrounding the time of removal of the stabilized plutonium from Rocky Flats and with safety as our overriding concern, we believe DOE should take an extended-term approach to the on-site storage issue, so it doesn't make a decision today it will later have to undo.

An extended-term approach dictates the wisdom of considering construction of a new building or series of dispersed bunkers on-site for storage of stabilized plutonium. Any building(s) constructed for this purpose must be able to store plutonium in the safest possible manner. Specifically, any such structure must be capable of withstanding earthquakes and terrorist hits. Moreover, it should be equipped to store plutonium in the fifty year can, in vitrified form, or in any other storage form DOE may be considering. Finally, DOE should consider constructing a plutonium storage building or dispersed bunkers that can be converted to monitored, retrievable storage of radioactive waste after the plutonium is gone. The structure(s) thus would have an ongoing use as soon as the plutonium is removed, whether at an early date or some time later.

Several persons propose that any new storage facility or facilities be located off-site at a location remote from any densely populated area. DOE should consider this proposal.

It is our intention that this new facility or facilities be designed for the plutonium currently on-site at Rocky Flats and it should not accommodate plutonium from other sites.

We view the decision you are about to make as one of great magnitude for future activities at Rocky Flats. DOE has allotted a very short amount of time to make this decision and we are not convinced a

good decision can be made in this short a period.

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The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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