

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 98-18

to the U.S. Department of Energy

Regarding the Future Use Stakeholder Involvement Process Plan

Approved September 3, 1998

September 10, 1998

James Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Owendoff:

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) is the official Site Specific Advisory Board for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS). We recently received copies of the Rocky Flats Future Use Stakeholder Involvement Process Plan, prepared by the Department of Energy Rocky Flats Field Office (DOE-RFFO), in response to Section 3153 of Public Law 104-201, the 1997 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Board understands that DOE-RFFO prepared a Plan that did not specifically adhere to the requirements put forth by Congress. The Defense Authorization Act asked Rocky Flats to prepare a future use document looking out 50 years into the future, with an analysis of long-term stewardship. Because the future use planning process at this site is only just beginning, RFFO chose instead to "outline the framework, decisions and recommendations made to date, the associated process which the Site intends to follow, and the parameters for stakeholder involvement in future use planning and end state definition."

Although RFCAB may offer some suggestions for modifying aspects of the document as written, we believe that DOE-RFFO's decision about the scope of the document was appropriate. We believe it is neither realistic nor desirable for DOE-RFFO to prepare a document at this time that

outlines future use 50 years from now, as well as long-term stewardship issues. There are a large number of very active stakeholders working on RFETS issues, all of whom are interested in providing input on these very important issues at the appropriate time. However, there is a general agreement that long-term future use and stewardship decisions cannot and should not be made until more is known about the timing and extent of cleanup of the site. It would have been premature for RFFO to attempt to do this.

Therefore, we support DOE-RFFO's concept of revising the scope of this document.

Sincerely,

Tom Marshall
Chair

cc:

Senator Strom Thurmond, Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee
Senator Carl Levin, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
Representative Floyd Davidson Spence, Chair, House National Security Committee
Representative Ike Skelton, Ranking Member, House National Security Committee

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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