

# **Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 98-19**

**to the U.S. Department of Energy**

**Regarding Funding for Retiree Medical Benefits**

**Approved October 1, 1998**

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October 2, 1998

Secretary Bill Richardson  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Richardson:

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) has been approached several times throughout the past few years by retired workers from Rocky Flats with concerns about proposed changes to their medical benefits. It has been the position of our Board that the Department of Energy (DOE) needs to honor commitments made to these workers, and therefore should not make any changes to the medical benefits they were promised upon retirement. This recommendation was conveyed in 1996 and again this summer to the Rocky Flats Field Office and Kaiser-Hill.

We also recently recommended that DOE find a way to separate the funding for these benefits from the cleanup funding. During each consecutive budget cycle, the contractor takes a new look at how it can squeeze dollars from the benefits budget in order to free up more money for a profitable activity for them - cleaning up the site. This is not appropriate, and it is not fair to the retired employees of the site or the current contractor. Kaiser-Hill is being asked to deal with issues that should not be of concern to them. A change needs to be made as soon as possible to prevent this problem from recurring next year and each year thereafter.

We are also concerned about the larger issue of funding these benefits once Rocky Flats has been closed. Have plans already been made for the long-term funding requirements of the retired

workforce? If not, please report to us what plans you have to address this very important issue.

We hope that you are able to address these issues in a positive manner and look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Tom Marshall  
Chair

Cc:

Representative David Skaggs  
Senator Wayne Allard  
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell  
Jessie Roberson, Manager, DOE Rocky Flats Field Office  
Robert Card, President, Kaiser-Hill

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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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