

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 99-1

to the U.S. Department of Energy

Comments on *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Temporary Storage of Transuranic and Transuranic Mixed Waste*

Approved July 19, 1999

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) understands that the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) has a need to develop some additional storage capacity for transuranic and transuranic mixed (TRU/TRM) waste. RFETS predicts it will fill all existing TRU/TRM storage capacity by June 2000 regardless of the number of shipments of TRU waste it is able to make to WIPP during the next year. Therefore, the Board recognizes the necessity for the development of additional storage capacity onsite.

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment and associated financial information, the Board supports the Preferred Alternative of refurbishing existing building(s). However, RFCAB does not recommend waste storage in buildings if this would cause increased radiation exposure to non-radiation workers. Prior to making a decision on utilizing Building 460, the Department of Energy should consult with the American Federation of Government Employees as well as other stakeholders.

We also agree with the RFETS assessment that tents should not be used because of safety and security issues. We further concur that the order of magnitude cost increase that would be involved in building a new facility cannot be justified in light of DOE's policy decision to ship all of this waste to WIPP as soon as possible

Finally, the Board would like to emphasize that security is still an important factor when considering storage for TRU waste, especially for some of the higher plutonium content residue materials. We encourage DOE to factor this into planning the building refurbishment criteria, particularly in light of the fact that the candidate buildings are outside of the Protected Area.

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.

[Back to Index of CAB Recommendations](#)

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