



**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Recommendation 2005-5**

**Proposal for Membership Identification and Selection for the
Rocky Flats Local Stakeholder Organization**

Approved June 2, 2005

Letter to:
Mr. Mike Owen
Director, Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Owen:

At its meeting last evening, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board approved the attached proposal by unanimous consent. This proposal addresses the Board's views on membership identification and selection issues for the future Rocky Flats Local Stakeholder Organization.

To ensure the credibility and smooth functioning of this future organization, it is important for both DOE and the community that there be buy-in up front by Rocky Flats stakeholders regarding the representational needs and membership selection process for the LSO. In its proposal, the Board offers to work with both DOE and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments to sponsor and arrange a community meeting where these important issues can be discussed and agreements reached. It is in everyone's best interest that the community as a whole comes to agreement on these issues before the LSO is formed. We believe our proposal meets that need.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gerald L. DePoorter
Chair

cc: Secretary Samuel Bodman
Scott Surovchak, DOE-LM
Tony Carter, DOE-LM
Audrey Berry, DOE-GJO
Senator Wayne Allard
Senator Ken Salazar
Congressman Bob Beauprez
Congressman Mark Udall
Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Proposal for Membership Identification and Selection for the Rocky Flats Local Stakeholder Organization

June 2, 2005

Background:

In 2004, Congress passed the Ronald Reagan Defense Authorization Act calling for the creation of local stakeholder organizations at three Department of Energy closure sites: Rocky Flats, Mound and Fernald. After passage of the Act, members of the Rocky Flats stakeholder community were initially confused as to the role that persons other than elected officials of local governments were to have in the Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). On April 19, 2005, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board sent a letter to members of the Colorado Congressional delegation outlining the history of citizen stakeholder involvement at Rocky Flats and asking that non-elected persons be included on the Rocky Flats LSO with full and equal participation. On April 26, 2005, members of the Colorado Congressional delegation wrote to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman clarifying their interpretation of the legislation. They stated their support for inclusion of non-elected officials with full voting rights.

Both the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments have taken very active roles in the establishment of an LSO for Rocky Flats. While members of the Citizens Advisory Board believe it is appropriate for the Coalition to determine the representation needs of local governments on the future LSO, the membership needs of the community-at-large must be decided in a much broader forum.

Proposal for Determining Membership Needs of Non-Elected Persons on the LSO:

Citizen stakeholders have a long history of involvement in Rocky Flats decision-making in formally recognized and federally funded stakeholder groups. Membership selection decisions on these stakeholder groups have consistently taken place in an open forum where no single entity, including the Department of Energy, state and federal regulators, local governments, or other established organizations have been given a larger say. Such open decision-making has allowed the groups formed to enjoy greater credibility with the community-at-large. The future LSO must be established in a similar manner if it too is to enjoy the same level of credibility.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board proposes to work with the Department of Energy, the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, and any other interested parties to establish an effective LSO membership identification and selection process. To accomplish this task, the Citizens Advisory Board, the Coalition, and the DOE Office of Legacy Management should co-sponsor a public meeting on the topic of creating an LSO for Rocky Flats. This meeting should be widely advertised and held at a time and location convenient to the community-at-large. The meeting should be facilitated by an independent entity to ensure that all parties have an equal opportunity for participation. Meeting and facilitation costs should be borne by the Office of Legacy Management using funds already appropriated for the LSO at Rocky Flats.

The meeting should include a discussion of membership needs for the LSO, with a goal of determining an appropriate size for the organization and the key stakeholder categories that should be represented. The LSO must represent the full range of interests and values held by people interested in the future management of the site.

Next, a process for membership recruitment and selection should be identified that meets the needs of all interested parties in terms of fairness and neutrality. The process should include designation of those who will make the membership selection decisions and should also include a timeline. The process by which members are selected will influence whether the LSO is perceived as representative and sufficiently independent of DOE to oversee future activities at the site.

If the above activities cannot be accomplished in a single meeting, an alternative is for those in attendance to delegate a smaller subgroup that would continue to work on their behalf. After completing their work, the subgroup members would convene a second public meeting to present their proposals and seek the community's approval.

Ultimately, it is the Office of Legacy Management's responsibility for establishing an LSO at Rocky Flats. Legacy Management has indicated its preference that the stakeholder community provide it with a recommendation. By endorsing the above process for membership decision-making, Legacy Management can help ensure that the LSO formed will be representative of and accepted by the community.

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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