

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Jefferson County ~ Boulder County ~ City and County of Broomfield ~ City of Arvada ~ City of Boulder
City of Golden ~ City of Northglenn ~ City of Thornton ~ City of Westminster ~ Town of Superior
League of Women Voters ~ Rocky Flats Cold War Museum ~ Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Kim Griffiths

Motion to Oppose Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, and Hydraulic Fracturing On and Under Rocky Flats

WHEREAS, local governments and citizen organizations in the vicinity of Rocky Flats remain committed to ensuring the cleanup remedy continues to protect human health and the environment, both on-site and on lands adjacent to Rocky Flats. This interest is broad and not limited to oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, applications were filed with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to develop oil and gas minerals located under Rocky Flats, raising a number of technical and legal questions heretofore not addressed by federal and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, cleanup did not eliminate all risk. Remaining contamination includes radioactive materials, chemical solvent wastes and heavy metal wastes; and

WHEREAS, the lands under the Department of Energy's jurisdiction (known as the Central Operable Unit) remain on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Superfund list; and

WHEREAS, cleanup did not anticipate all of the risks related to oil and gas exploration and production on and under Rocky Flats, including the impacts on public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the cleanup remedy and in turn public and environmental health, the restrictive notice on file with Jefferson County prohibits excavation, drilling, and other intrusive activities below a depth of three feet without prior regulatory review and approval pursuant to the Soil Disturbance Review Plan in the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement Attachment 2; and

WHEREAS, activities at Rocky Flats or on lands adjacent to Rocky Flats must continue to protect the cleanup remedy. That includes protecting the groundwater treatment systems, landfills, and water quality monitoring systems, as well as not negatively altering or changing the surface and subsurface geology and hydrology, or otherwise creating pathways that do not currently exist; and

WHEREAS, development of oil and gas resources at Rocky Flats and/or on or under lands in close proximity to Rocky Flats raises a number of questions about the potential impacts on the long-term effectiveness of the cleanup remedy; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2019, the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council forwarded to federal and state agencies questions about the potential impacts of and legal requirements governing oil and gas development at Rocky Flats and/or on or under lands in close proximity to Rocky Flats. Those questions are attached and incorporated into this motion; and

WHEREAS, answers to questions about the impact of oil and gas development on the Rocky Flats cleanup remain unknown at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council opposes oil and gas exploration and production, including hydraulic fracturing, on and under Rocky Flats, and cautions local governments, permitting agencies, and oil and gas operators to consider the unique conditions related to Rocky Flats when considering oil and gas exploration and production, including hydraulic fracturing, on and under land adjacent to Rocky Flats, until the impacts to the cleanup remedy and, in turn, human health and the environment are known and mitigated to the satisfaction of the Stewardship Council members.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd day of June, 2019.

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

s/s

Joyce Downing
Chair

ATTEST;

s/s

Jeannette Hillery
Secretary