

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County City of Broomfield Jefferson County
City of Arvada City of Boulder City of Westminster Town of Superior

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RESOLUTION
of the
Board of Directors
of the
ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
regarding
Rocky Flats Workers' Health Benefits

WHEREAS, the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments is a separate legal, public entity, created by an intergovernmental agreement, as permitted by Colo. Const. Art. XIV, and section 18(2), part 2 of article 1, title 29, C.R.S., among seven Colorado local governments, Boulder County, Jefferson County, the City of Arvada, the City of Boulder, the City of Broomfield, the City of Westminster, and the Town of Superior (collectively, the "Coalition"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Coalition, consistent with public health, safety and welfare, is to provide an effective mechanism for local governments in the vicinity of Rocky Flats and their citizens to work together on issues of mutual concern relating to the safe, prompt and effective cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats, its future use and long term protection, and to serve as a focal point for local government communication and advocacy with state and federal agencies regarding Rocky Flats issues; and

WHEREAS, workers at the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") nuclear weapons plant sites such as the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, in Golden, Colorado ("Rocky Flats") and other nuclear weapons production plants, have endangered their lives during the Cold War by exposure to radioactive and hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, plant workers today jeopardize their health and safety with the continued risk of exposure to radioactive and hazardous materials as they undertake the difficult and risky task of cleaning up and closing down the nuclear production sites such as Rocky Flats; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons production and cleanup involved and continues to involve unique dangers, including catastrophic nuclear accidents that private insurance carriers will not cover, as well as chronic exposures to radioactive and hazardous substances, such as beryllium, that even in small amounts can cause medical harm; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the Coalition's purpose, the Coalition Board of Directors is concerned about radioactive and hazardous materials exposure and its health impacts on current and former Rocky Flats workers; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted over the past 20 years indicate that DOE workers are experiencing increased risks of dying from cancer and non-malignant diseases; and

WHEREAS, several of these studies also establish a correlation between these diseases and exposure to radiation and beryllium; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition's concerns are heightened upon learning that Rocky Flats workers are deterred from filing health claims and thereby bear substantial financial burden as a result of DOE's apparent policy to oppose workers' occupational illness claims regardless of cost and merit; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition believes that Rocky Flats workers, and other nuclear weapons production workers, need adequate compensation for health care costs resulting from beryllium- and radiation-related health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is in the process of debating legislation which would provide for the efficient, uniform, and adequate compensation for beryllium-related health conditions and radiation-related health conditions in order to assure fairness and equity at Rocky Flats and at other DOE facilities; and

WHEREAS, DOE has announced its intention that DOE contractor and vendor workers at Rocky Flats, and at other nuclear weapons closure sites, will continue to receive health benefits after the closure of Rocky Flats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Coalition Board commends and endorses the efforts of the Colorado Congressional delegation for its support of federal legislation that would provide for efficient, uniform, and adequate compensation for beryllium-related health conditions and radiation-related health conditions in order to assure fairness and equity at Rocky Flats and at other DOE facilities.
2. The Coalition Board believes that the establishment of such a health benefit program through legislation represents a major step forward in providing justice for workers and their families, and urges Congress to enact such legislation in a timely manner and bring closure to the issue so that workers will benefit from the provisions therein.
3. The Coalition Board further urges Congress to authorize and adequately fund long-term health benefits for both federal and non-federal workers at Rocky Flats and at other DOE closure facilities after closure, including providing for survivor benefits.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of September, 2000

ATTEST: ROCKY FLATS COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

/s/

Paul Danish
Vice Chairman