

THE ADVISOR

A Publication of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Autumn 2000

Rocky Flats Cleanup Progress Report

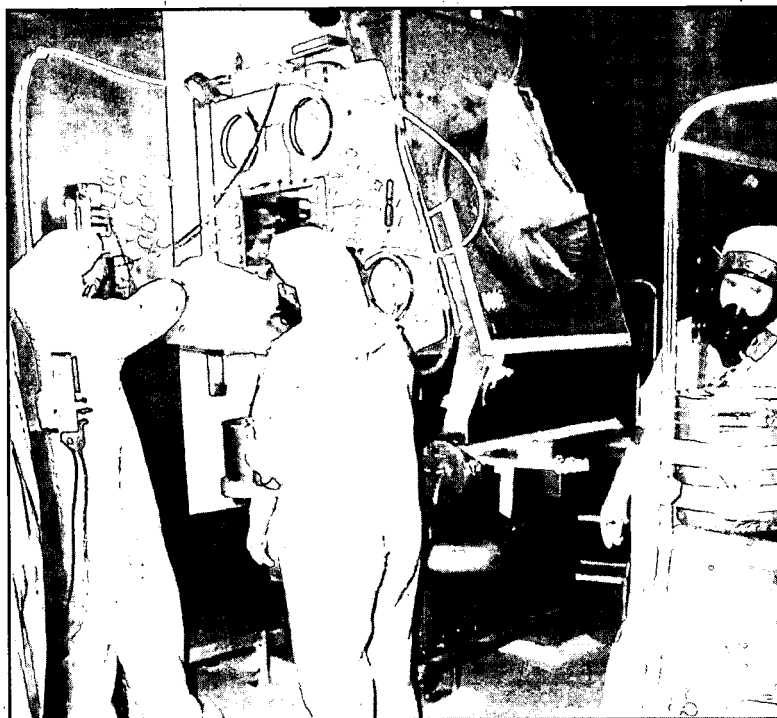
With this issue of *The Advisor*, we will take a look at the cleanup work that has been done so far this year at Rocky Flats.

Now operating under a very ambitious closure plan, Rocky Flats managers still face enormous challenges in the next six

years to not only accomplish some major cleanup projects, but also to do them safely. Although cleanup work at the site is not yet at a pace to meet current closure deadlines, progress is being made to reduce risks at the site.

One of the most important areas of risk reduction is the stabilization and shipment of plutonium. In 1994, Rocky Flats stored nearly 14 tons of plutonium in various forms. While updated inventories have not been released, we know that the current inventory is lower because of the completion of plutonium pit shipments to Pantex last year. This year, Rocky Flats has initiated the shipping of classified plutonium to Savannah River, South Carolina; shipped the entire inventory of another form of plutonium metal (scrub alloy), also to Savannah River; and is on pace to complete shipments of 140 pieces of plutonium metal feed material to Los Alamos.

One of the major challenges for Rocky Flats has been the successful implementation of an automated plutonium stabilization and packaging line. This system was built to handle a large quantity of plutonium metals and oxides that are scheduled to be shipped to Savannah River in 50-year storage



In this photo, workers in Building 371 are repackaging residue materials.

canisters: However, there have been numerous technical difficulties and resulting delays. After most recently hoping to have the system operational by January 2000, the site is now planning on a November 2000 start date. In order to meet contract deadlines, this 100-trip shipping campaign must be complete by September 2002. The site is also waiting for certification of some of the plutonium shipping containers it plans to use. Once these materials have been shipped, the site's Protected Area will be made significantly smaller and the associated costs of guarding and maintaining this material in a safe

configuration will be reduced. Therefore, getting this plutonium off the Rocky Flats site is a major priority for Kaiser-Hill.

Other materials that contain plutonium in fairly high quantities are called residues. Although now classified as waste, these materials must be stabilized before they are shipped to a

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Rocky Flats Updates



Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Adds Two New Members

At its monthly meeting held in August, the Board agreed to the appointment of two members, who will fill vacancies on the Board.

Bill Petersen. A resident of Westminster, Bill works as an architectural designer for Pappas Architecture. He is interested in becoming involved in the community where he lives, having a positive role in the impact of environmental cleanup of Rocky Flats, and as a citizen he wants to provide feedback to the government on its responsibility to affected citizens and communities. Bill has worked in the architectural field since graduating from CU-Boulder in 1996, and has experience working with municipalities on development and redevelopment of "greenfields" and "brownfields." Bill will serve on the Board as an administrative/business representative.

Nancy Peters. Nancy also lives in Westminster. She is retired from employment with the State of Colorado, where she worked with the Colorado Medicaid Program, the Joint Budget Committee of the legislature, and Colorado State Parks. She is chair of the City of Westminster Special Permits and Licensing Board, a volunteer instructor for the Environmental Edge Program at Front Range Community College, and a volunteer mediator for employee grievances with the Colorado Department of Personnel. Nancy has a bachelor degree from Juniata College in Pennsylvania, and a Master of Public Administration from CU. She will serve as a community representative.

Stewardship Working Group

The Stewardship Working Group, comprised of members from the Citizens Advisory Board and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, continues to meet each month to discuss long-term stewardship issues at Rocky Flats. This is an important community dialogue because it is very likely that contamination will remain behind at Rocky Flats even after its "official" cleanup and closure. A long-term stewardship program will help ensure that both public health and the environment are protected from this remaining contamination well into the future.

At its meetings so far, the working group has been learning about stewardship plans being made both locally and by DOE officials in Washington, D.C. The group has developed a set of goals it would like to see incorporated in a long-term stewardship program. These goals include things like ensuring the safety of water resources both on and off the site, minimizing future costs, ensuring that information about the site and any remaining contamination is made available to future generations, and ensuring public involvement in decisions that might have long-term impact.

To help in its understanding of what steps might be necessary for a future stewardship program, the group has formed a "Toolbox" committee that is working on compiling a list of all possible stewardship activities and options. The next step will be to develop information such as cost, desirability, effectiveness and other criteria for each of these activities. The group hopes to use this information from its toolbox in recommending a sound and effective stewardship program for Rocky Flats.

The working group will continue its discussions throughout the fall. If you are interested in attending some of the working group meetings, or would like additional information, please contact the RFCAB office at (303) 420-7855.

National Stewardship Workshop

In October, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board will be hosting members from other Department of Energy Site Specific Advisory Boards nationwide at a Stewardship Workshop. This workshop will be held October 26-27 in downtown Denver. The goal of the workshop is to bring together advisory board members from around the country to discuss issues related to long-term stewardship at Department of Energy nuclear weapons complex sites. All workshop sessions will be open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please contact the RFCAB office at (303) 420-7855 to register.

RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group

The Department of Energy, along with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency, recently formed a new stakeholder group to focus on the many Rocky Flats environmental restoration issues - most importantly soil and water cleanup activities. This RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group is currently meeting every two weeks, with the goal of discussing these cleanup issues in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

The purpose of the group is to allow citizens and local government representatives the opportunity to be a part of the decision-making processes at a very early stage. The group plans to address a wide variety of issues, including soil cleanup levels, surface water issues, plutonium migration, and final site characterization issues.

The meetings are open to the public and are designed for those who are interested in studying and discussing environmental cleanup issues in depth. For more information, contact John Corsi at (303) 966-6526.

(continued on page 3)

Rocky Flats Updates (continued from page 2)

Soil Action Level Review

During 1999-2000, the Department of Energy funded a citizen-directed, independent review of the regulatory soil cleanup levels that were set for Rocky Flats in 1996. The final report from this study recommended a much more stringent cleanup level for the site. As part of the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, DOE, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency have committed to reviewing on an annual basis any new information that could affect cleanup levels for Rocky Flats. Therefore, the results of the independent review are now being assessed by the agencies. Other relevant information is also being reviewed as part of this annual process. A draft report from the agencies is expected to be available this fall for public comment. Interested citizens have been invited to attend the working meetings as the agencies complete their analysis of the soil action levels. These meetings will be especially intensive during the summer and fall months of this year.

Actinide Migration Study

The Actinide Migration Evaluation is an ongoing project funded by Rocky Flats to help evaluate the mechanisms by which actinides (primarily plutonium and uranium) move through the environment at the site. A specialized group of scientists has been developing data on soil erosion modeling, sediment transportation, groundwater analysis, and remediation technology, as well as other related topics. Research has been done on the different physical properties of uranium transport versus plutonium transport. In addition, the location and migratory pathway of nitrate continues to be studied. One of the goals of the group is to understand the fate of the contamination throughout time. Research into the various factors that can affect where the contamination will move over time is needed for long term clean-up and remedial strategic planning.

Data from the studies is presented at periodic community meetings. RFCAB also has a committee called the AME Technical Review Group, which follows the study's progress and employs a technical contractor to review and assess relevant aspects of the study.

DOE Appoints Manager for Rocky Flats Field Office

Barbara Mazurowski was appointed manager of the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Field Office in March 2000, and took over official responsibilities over the summer. Prior to her assignment to lead cleanup and closure at Rocky Flats, she was the director of the DOE West Valley Demonstration Project. Her responsibilities included overall direction and management of the West Valley site. She has extensive experience in public and worker safety, environmental cleanup, project management, and a variety of stakeholder interactions. Before joining DOE, Ms. Mazurowski worked for the



Barbara Mazurowski

U.S. Department of Defense in Buffalo, New York from 1972 to 1991. She oversaw testing and acceptance, including final approval of complex systems for agencies including the Navy, the Army, and NASA. Key systems with which she was involved included the space shuttle, the space station, the MX missile, and automatic aircraft landing systems. Ms. Mazurowski has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology from the State University of New York, and a Master of Business Administration degree from St. Bonaventure University.

Health Studies Report Available

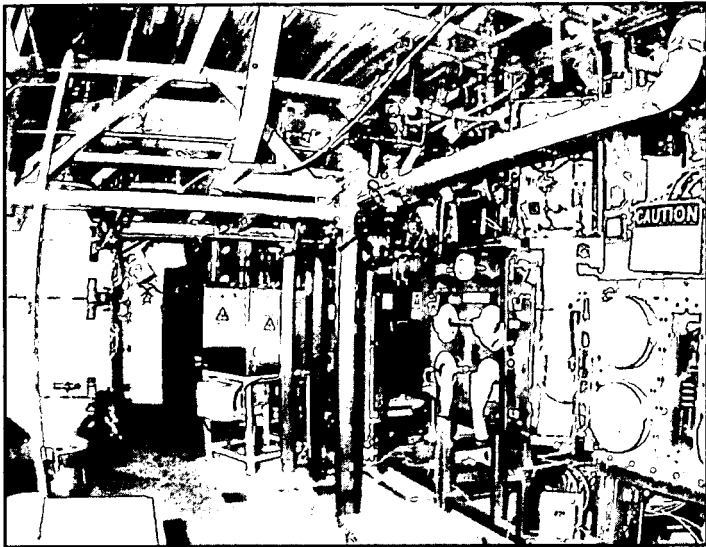
The Summary of Findings Report of the Historical Public Exposures Studies on Rocky Flats, which was issued in August 1999, has been reprinted. The 34-page report describes some of the risk from releases of radionuclides and chemicals from the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant between 1952 and 1989. Copies are available by calling Ann Lockhart of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at (303) 692-2640. Interested individuals can also learn more by checking the project web site at www.cdph.state.co.us/rf.

Is Your Organization Looking for Interesting Speakers?

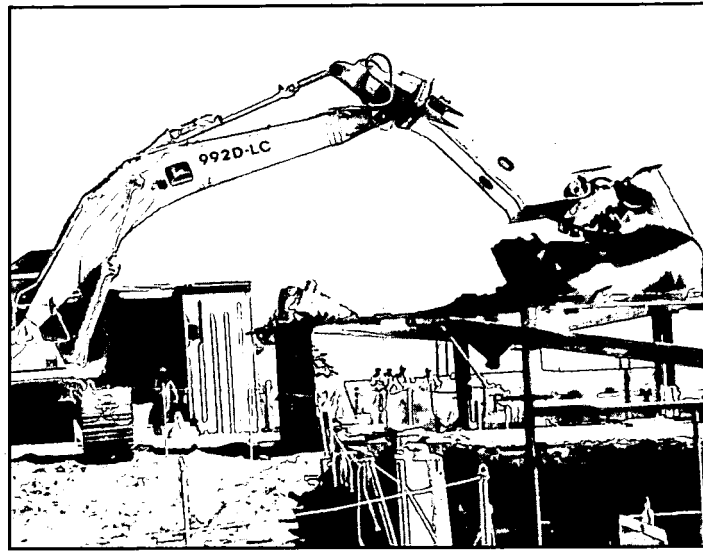
Members of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board are available at your convenience to present a 20-30 minute slideshow on Rocky Flats. This slideshow covers the history of Rocky Flats, an explanation of the current cleanup program, as well as information about how the public can get more involved in cleanup decisions.

Please call (303) 420-7855 or email debt@rfcab.org for more information.

RFETS Cleanup (continued from page 1)



Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging Line in Building 371.



Demolition of the clarifier treatment tanks near Building 788.

disposal site. Less than two years ago, this was one of the biggest challenges at the site, but now over two-thirds of the residue inventory has been stabilized and the site is on target to meet a major commitment to stabilize all residues by May 2002. All residues are slated to end up at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico for disposal. Rocky Flats has already begun shipping some types of residues to WIPP.

Another key challenge in getting Rocky Flats closed down is the cleanup and demolition of several highly contaminated buildings, as well as dozens of other facilities. At the beginning of the current fiscal year, Rocky Flats workers tore down Building 779, a former plutonium building. The next major building scheduled for demolition is Building 771 in 2003. In the meantime, decontamination and decommissioning work is proceeding in most of the major buildings onsite, such as 776/777, 771, 707 and 371. This includes work such as nuclear material removal, glovebox removal, and size reduction of large items. The site has also been preparing regulatory documents, some of which are necessary for the cleanup of specific buildings and

others which will serve to streamline approval processes for various repetitive cleanup and demolition activities.

The shipment of radioactive wastes is another important activity in the Rocky Flats cleanup program. The site has been consistently exceeding milestones for the shipment of low level wastes to Nevada and Utah. However, in order to meet contract milestones, Rocky Flats must quadruple these current shipping rates and maintain this pace throughout closure. Also, there are still a few categories of low level waste for which no receiver site is available. These "orphan wastes" are being stored as DOE searches for a site to accept them.

Wastes containing a higher concentration of plutonium (transuranic wastes) are being shipped to WIPP. This facility opened in 1998 after years of opposition and delays. Shipments were halted last year after a State of New Mexico hazardous waste permit was issued, so that the shipping sites could come into compliance with the permit's provisions. Rocky Flats has since completed nearly 30 shipments as of early July, with a goal of making a total of 45 shipments by the end of September. The site plans to

accelerate its ability to make shipments to WIPP to three shipments per week by September or October. In order to accomplish this acceleration, Rocky Flats is expanding its waste characterization and loading facilities.

The final category of cleanup work at Rocky Flats is environmental restoration. Most of the physical environmental restoration work will not take place until later in the closure project. However, one of the major activities in this area during 2000 has been the preparation of the Sampling and Analysis Plan for the site's Industrial Area. This plan will lay out how the Industrial Area will be characterized for contamination under buildings, along underground process and utility lines, and in other places that may require cleanup. This is one of the most challenging questions still remaining at the site. Next year, Rocky Flats will be initiating the characterization of contamination under the site's most notorious building, Building 771.

RFCAB will continue to track the progress of cleanup efforts at Rocky Flats. For more information, please contact one of our staff members at (303) 420-7855.

Advisory Board Approves 2001 Work Plan

In 2001, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board will begin its eighth year of operation. During this time, the Board has seen significant progress in transformation of the Rocky Flats site from a former nuclear weapons production facility to a site focused on its cleanup and closure by the year 2006. Achieving closure by the year 2006 will require tremendous effort on the part of the government to coordinate many activities, not just at Rocky Flats, but at other sites across the country. Most important will be the coordination with those sites that will be new homes to the waste and special nuclear materials that must leave Rocky Flats.

What happens to Rocky Flats after its closure is an area of concern for the community and the Board. How thorough will the cleanup be? What will be the future use of the site? How will programs and activities be put in place to ensure the future users and the surrounding communities are protected from whatever contamination might remain after closure? These questions and many others will occupy much of the Board's deliberations over the coming year.

To develop its annual work plan, the Board must prioritize those activities and issues it deems most important and timely to address. In order to select its work plan topics, the Board involves the Department of Energy and its contractors at Rocky Flats, the regulating agencies, and members of the surrounding community. Surveys are sent to members of these groups asking for their input on the work plan. In June, the Board asked these groups participate with it in voting on the issues judged most important. The results of this polling were considered by the Board at its annual retreat to select work plan topics and issues. After selecting its prioritized issues, the Board next developed a strategy for addressing them. This strategy forms the basis for the Board's work plan.

Over the coming year, three standing committees will do much of the Board's work. These committees are the Environmental Restoration Committee, the Actinide Migration Technical Review Group, and the Stewardship Committee. The Board will address other issues by scheduling presentations at its monthly meetings, and based on the level of concern or interest, ad hoc committees might be formed for further study and reports back to the Board. Board members also will be participating in other community dialogues and with other groups such as the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments on issues pertaining to the soil cleanup levels for the site, integration of environmental restoration activities, building decontamination and decommissioning plans, and post-closure stewardship.

The highlight of the Board's year will be its hosting of the national EMSSAB Stewardship Workshop in October. This workshop will bring representatives from other DOE site specific advisory boards from across the country to discuss stewardship issues. RFCAB looks forward to this opportunity to share ideas and gain new perspectives on this important issue facing the DOE nuclear weapons complex sites.

2001 will be an ambitious year for the Board. Our members remain committed to a safe and thorough cleanup of the Rocky Flats site. The activities outlined in the work plan are important to us as we strive toward that end. If you would like to receive a copy of the Board's work plan, please contact our office at (303) 420-7855 or check out our web site at www.rfcab.org.

2001 COMMITTEES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Environmental Restoration Committee

Radionuclide Soil Action Levels

903 Pad Decision Document

Industrial Area Sampling and
Analysis Plan

Remediation Technologies

RFCA Standard Operating Protocols for
Remediation Techniques

RFCA Annual Review

RFCA Integrating Decision Document

Actinide Migration Evaluation Technical Review Group

Actinide Migration Evaluation

Water Quality Issues

Surface Water Standards

Land Configuration Study

Stewardship Committee

Participation with the Rocky Flats
Stewardship Working Group

Rock Creek Reserve

Vegetation Management

Controlled Burn

NREL Expansion

Allard / Udall Bills

Site-Specific Advisory Boards

A R O U N D

THE DOE WEAPONS COMPLEX

This Issue: Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is one of several Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) that have been formed at former nuclear weapons production sites. In each issue of The Advisor, we spotlight the activities of one of these boards.

The Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) is a DOE facility situated on about 1,050 acres northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio. FEMP was a large-scale site where uranium ore and recycled materials were converted into uranium metal products for use in defense programs. About 136 acres in the center of the site were used in the actual production process. In July of 1989, Fernald's uranium metal production was suspended in order to focus resources on environmental restoration. Later that year, the EPA added Fernald to its National Priorities List. Since then, the Fernald work force has been dedicated to cleanup and waste management. Fluor Daniel Fernald currently serves as the contractor for managing cleanup at the site. Just like Rocky Flats, Fernald was designated as a Defense Closure Fund site in 1997.

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (FCAB) consists of 15 members of the public. The Board is currently organized into three committees: Stewardship, Remediation, and Steering. The Stewardship Committee evaluates information pertaining to long-term stewardship of the site. The Remediation Committee evaluates ongoing remediation activities and decisions about

treatment and transportation of waste. The Steering Committee meets as necessary to address administrative issues.

FCAB is a co-sponsor of the *Future of Fernald Workshops*, which began in April 1999, continued in May 2000, and will reconvene in September 2000. The intent of the workshops is to bring together a large, diverse group from both the Greater Cincinnati area and the local area. The workshops were designed to provide interested citizens with a voice in determining what public activities will be developed on the Fernald site after remediation. Final land use for the site is basically in place, with more than 900 acres of the site devoted to ecological restoration. Around 123 acres are required for a waste disposal facility. Another 23 acres have been identified and set aside for possible community development. The site will be in federal control in perpetuity, and the disposal facility will always be monitored and maintained by a federal agency. The public was asked to give input to DOE on what it would most like to see as community assets at the site, what it would not want to see at the site, and how any community assets would be managed in the future. For the second workshop, an online bulletin board was developed to help solicit that input. Workshop sponsors will use the results of information gathered to develop a conceptual model of what the community wants to see in Fernald's future.

The Board is busy preparing for the *Future of Fernald Workshop 3*. FCAB is working to compile the input from nearly 100 members of the public at the last workshop into a draft vision statement, and possible implementing steps. They hope to use that information to provide possible public access scenarios. The Board is required to report back to DOE in late September with a synopsis of the input gained, and any public access scenarios that are developed.



Participants at the recent Future of Fernald Workshop.

*For more information,
refer to the Fernald web site at www.fernalddoe.gov*

Wanted: Volunteers to Help Make Important Decisions about the Cleanup and Closure of Rocky Flats

Do you wonder about what is happening at the Rocky Flats site,
and how it affects your future?

Would you be interested in learning about what the Department of Energy
and its contractor have planned to finish cleaning up
and closing down this former nuclear weapons production facility?

Are you dedicated to working toward common goals, and being
involved in decisions that impact your community?

If so, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board needs you. The Board is soliciting applications from interested citizens in our communities to fill several vacancies. In order to best maintain our diversity, right now our strongest need is for representatives who are women and minorities. Candidates must express a willingness, ability, and desire to strive for consensus recommendations.

Primary membership criteria is a time commitment of about 10 to 15 hours per month, which includes:

- 1) Attending monthly Board meetings
- 2) Active participation on a committee or focus group
- 3) Preparing for meetings by reading written material and keeping up-to-date on current issues

* * * N E W * * *

APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA THE INTERNET AT:
www.rfcab.org

To receive an application packet by mail, call us at (303) 420-7855; send an email to rfcab@indra.com; or write to: Membership Committee, Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250, Westminster, Colorado 80021.

RFCAB Website: www.rfcab.org

The Advisor is published quarterly by the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB). The Executive Editor is Jerry DePoorter. Please send your questions, suggestions and ideas to:

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Except as noted, all articles are written by RFCAB staff: Ken Korkia, Erin Rogers, Deb Thompson, and Susan Wilds. To request a change of address or to add or remove your name from the mailing list, contact Deb Thompson at the above address and phone number. Material may be reprinted if credit is given. RFCAB is funded under a 2000 grant of approximately \$300,000 sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

RFCAB MISSION STATEMENT

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, a nonpartisan, broadly representative, independent advisory board with concerns related to Rocky Flats activities, is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to the agencies (Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency), government entities and other interested parties on policy and technical issues and decisions related to cleanup, waste management and associated activities. The Board is dedicated to public involvement, awareness and education on Rocky Flats issues.

Rocky Flats Public Meeting Calendar

September

| | | | |
|----|---|------------------|----------------------|
| 7 | <i>Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments</i> | 8 - 11 a.m. | Jeffco Airport |
| 7 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Work Session</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. | College Hill Library |
| 13 | <i>RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group</i> | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Broomfield City Hall |
| 14 | <i>Rocky Flats Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel</i> | 4 - 6 p.m. | Broomfield City Hall |
| 21 | <i>Actinide Migration Evaluation Technical Review Group</i> | 5 - 7 p.m. | RFCAB office |
| 27 | <i>RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group</i> | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Broomfield City Hall |
| 28 | <i>Stewardship Working Group</i> | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | To be determined |

October

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------|----------------------|
| 2 | <i>Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments</i> | 8 - 11 a.m. | Jeffco Airport |
| 5 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Work Session</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. | College Hill Library |
| 12 | <i>Rocky Flats Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel</i> | 4 - 6 p.m. | Broomfield City Hall |
| 19 | <i>Actinide Migration Evaluation Technical Review Group</i> | 5 - 7 p.m. | RFCAB office |

November

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------|----------------------|
| 2 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Work Session</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. | College Hill Library |
| 6 | <i>Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments</i> | 8 - 11 a.m. | Jeffco Airport |
| 9 | <i>Rocky Flats Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel</i> | 4 - 6 p.m. | Broomfield City Hall |
| 16 | <i>Actinide Migration Evaluation Technical Review Group</i> | 5 - 7 p.m. | RFCAB office |

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU GO -- (303) 420-7855

Broomfield City Hall, One Descombes Drive, Broomfield
College Hill Library, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster
Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield
RFCAB office, 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250, Westminster

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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Westminster, CO 80021

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