Non radioactive waste disposal and certain recycling operations are handled commercially

Liquid and solid wastes are processed into Department of Transportation (DOT) approved shipping forms Regulations stipulate that no radioactive liquid waste can be shipped so liquids are solidified Wastes are transported in DOT-tested and approved containers

Radioactive wastes are shipped out of Colorado for disposal TRU and TRU mixed wastes will be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) near Carlsbad NM That facility will open when final requirements for regulatory certification are complete Low level and low level mixed waste is shipped to the Nevada Test Site

Plant Security

Because the nuclear material and classified information used at the plant is vital to the security of the United States and its allies Rocky Flats is one of the most closely guarded sites in the country

A 300 plus member security force is charged with protecting special nuclear material classified information and government property from espionage sabotage or theft from outside as well as from possible inside subversive threats They are also responsible for protecting the plant s employees and are authorized to use deadly force if necessary

The security force works closely with state and local law enforcement agencies in a variety of training exercises and in other plant protection emergency support requirements

The Rocky Flats Fire Department is staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week This department is responsible for fire protection engineering firefighting prevention support and emergency medical response as well as the education of employees about fire safety awareness and other issues regarding preventive safety awareness on the job and at home

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Plant Employees

Rocky Flats employees contribute to the Rocky Flats Foundation an onsite charitable fund supported entirely by employees Hundreds of thousands of dollars are given to local community service and support organizations annually

The plant also supports Colorado s Better Air Campaign by promoting carpooling and coordinating more than 50 vans covering some 49 routes throughout the Denver metropolitan area More than 650 employees participate with approximately 700 participating in the carpooling program

Rocky Flats also sponsors a Speakers Bureau which is made up of more than 60 enthusiastic and knowledgeable employees who are qualified to speak to schools community groups and service organizations Popular subjects include Rocky Flats operations health care nuclear physics and career counseling

Employees also support cultural and social events by donating extensive volunteer time to various community organizations every year

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS INC
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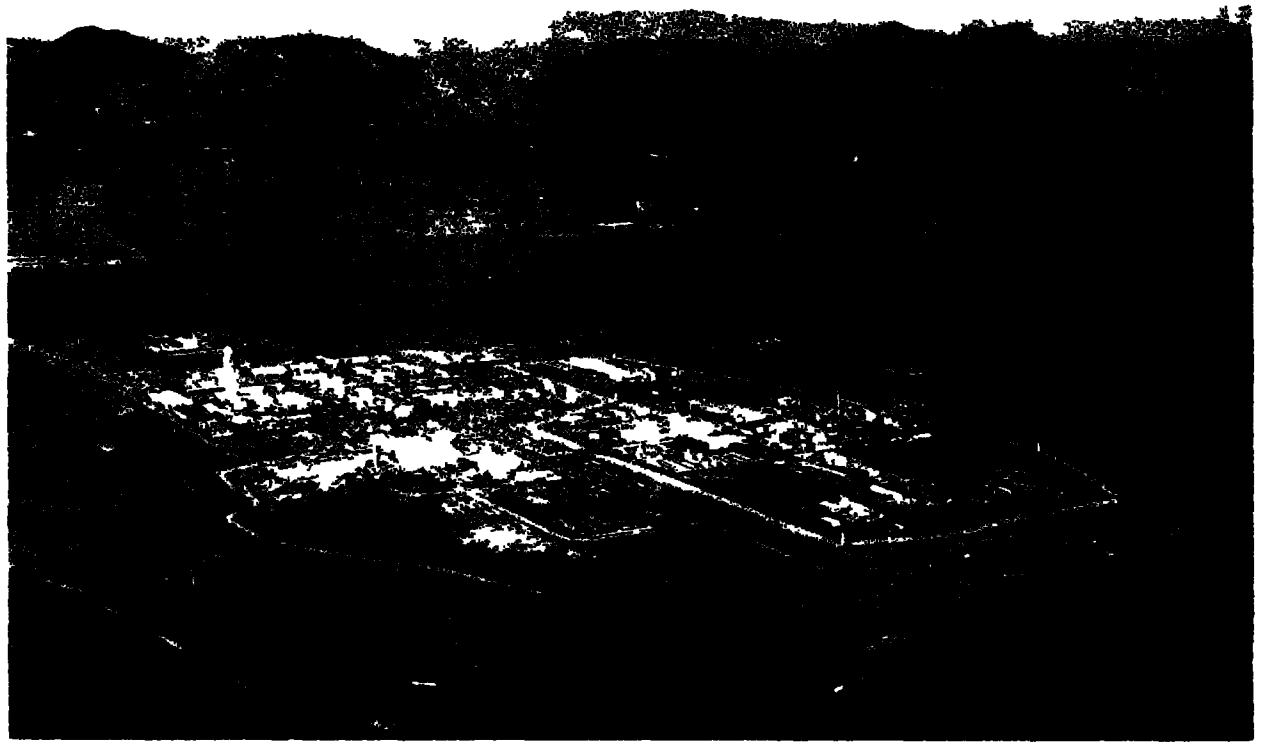
Community Relations Contact Terry Smith 966-2986
Media Relations Contact Jeff Schwartz 966-5866



Rocky Flats Plant Brief Overview

The Rocky Flats Plant is a national defense facility owned by the U S Department of Energy (DOE) The plant is operated by EG&G Rocky Flats a subsidiary of EG&G Inc headquartered in Wellesley Massachusetts It is located approximately 16 miles northwest of Denver Colorado and occupies 384 acres amid a 6 550-acre natural preserve (buffer zone)

In 1952 the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) early predecessor to the DOE selected the Rocky Flats site northwest of Denver to construct a facility that would play an integral part in the nation s nuclear defense strategy That strategy consisted of building a multi-facility production complex and developing new technology necessary to manufacture and assemble nuclear weapons weapons to act as a deterrent against adverse nations

Rocky Flats is one of seven production plants in the DOE Weapons Complex The first operating contractor was the Dow Chemical Company Rockwell International Corporation operated the plant from 1975 to 1989 EG&G Inc assumed operating responsibilities Jan 1 1990 and is responsible for producing the plant s unique products in a cost-effective manner for protecting the safety of employees the public and the environment and for keeping the plant and its materials secure from both outside attack and inside threats EG&G also operates a second DOE facility in Oxnard California under the Rocky Flats contract

ADMIN RECORD

A-SW-000080

At Rocky Flats components for nuclear weapons are manufactured from materials such as plutonium beryllium uranium and various alloys of stainless steel using metal fabricating technologies The product is called a pit A pit contains fissile plutonium fuel for a nuclear weapon Rocky Flats does the necessary foundry and machine shop work to manufacture and assemble the pit into its final form The pit alone however is not capable of a nuclear explosion without the components from other DOE weapons facilities Parts manufactured at the Rocky Flats Plant are shipped to the DOE Pantex facility near Amarillo Texas for final assembly

Additional Rocky Flats missions include plutonium recovery and waste management

The Rocky Flats Plant employs approximately 6 800 people About 5 600 are employed by EG&G with the other 1 200 employed by DOE and other plant contractors

Two unions the United Steelworkers of America and the United Plant Guard Workers of America represent more than 2 600 EG&G hourly workers

The FY 1990 operating budget including capital projects is approximately $695 million About $308 million of the budget is earmarked for salaries wages and benefits The balance of $387 million is for purchases of equipment supplies and services Approximately $89 million was spent on purchases from Colorado businesses

Safety and Environmental Protection

The Rocky Flats Safety Program is designed with two primary objectives To protect employees and to constantly monitor safety systems to ensure these protective methods are effective The program is based on the concept of continuous improvement Despite an excellent safety record the goal is to continually improve beyond the high standards already achieved The systems in place to accomplish this are based on multiple levels of protection This means that if a primary level of protection malfunctions several backups are in place to ensure protection of employees the public and the environment

Employee Safety

- Use of engineering and administrative controls in addition to protective equipment to eliminate hazards
- Extensive training in radiation and industrial safety
- Strict adherence to plant annual radiation dose limits that are more stringent than those established by the DOE and national and international scientific agencies
- Adherence to the concept of ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) for radioactive as well as non-radioactive hazard control
- Extensive monitoring of employee exposure to radioactive and non-radioactive agents
- Recognition and Employee Suggestion Programs encouraging continued awareness of the importance of safety and participation by all employees in maintaining safety

Safety of the Public and Environment

- Extensive plant environmental management programs to monitor and ensure environmental controls are working effectively and that the plant is complying with all applicable regulations
- The Colorado Department of Health and neighboring communities also conduct independent sampling programs and meet regularly with plant officials in public meetings to compare and verify sampling data Sampling programs include

  Continuous monitoring of building air emissions ambient air surface and treated sanitary waste water groundwater regional water supplies and tapwater and soil

  - Monitoring is for both radioactive and non-radioactive elements at locations on plantsite in the plant s buffer zone and in surrounding communities

The environmental data indicate that the maximum yearly radiation dose a member of the public could receive as a result of Rocky Flats activities is less than 1 millirem per year which is four times less than the additional dose a person would receive from cosmic radiation by taking one round-trip airline flight from New York to London once a year

Environmental Restoration

The Rocky Flats Plant has an aggressive program to ensure that environmental restoration of contaminated areas is accomplished in a timely and effective manner Approximately 178 sites have been identified as in need of environmental investigation A seven year plan including fiscal 1989 has been developed for restoration projects at a cost of approximately $300 $400 million Currently 350 groundwater monitoring wells are used to characterize groundwater contamination The plant is currently installing an additional 400 wells

Current remedial actions on highest priority sites include

- 881 Hillside Plans include the installation of a French drain which will begin at bedrock with an impermeable membrane running from the ground surface to the drain to collect groundwater The groundwater will be pumped to an onsite treatment facility for removal of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and metals The treatment involves ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide to destruct the VOCs and an ion exchange for removal of metals

  Status Work started in January 1990 following EPA and Colorado Department of Health approval of an Interim Measures/ Interim Remedial Action Plan for the site

- 903 Pad The interim remedial action at the 903 Pad Mound and East Trenches areas will consist of pumping groundwater from wells in areas with the greatest amount of contamination The groundwater will be treated onsite to remove VOCs radionuclides and other metals as needed

  Status Workplans are scheduled to begin in mid- to late 1990 Other remedial actions are pending the collection of additional site characterization data

Waste Management

The production and fabrication processes at Rocky Flats generate radioactive and hazardous chemical wastes Waste operations at the plant are regulated by

- The Colorado Department of Health (CDH)
- The U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- The Department of Energy (DOE)

Definitions of waste forms Whether a waste is considered high- or low-level is determined by the amount of radioactive material contained in the waste Rocky Flats generates transuranic or TRU waste and low-level waste No high-level radioactive waste is generated at Rocky Flats Mixed wastes are radioactive wastes that also include hazardous chemicals such as machining oils or cleaning solvents

Many of the waste handling guidelines are established by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) which covers management and handling practices for hazardous chemical and radioactive mixed wastes The overall plant goals regarding waste management are to

- Minimize the amount of wastes generated
- Provide safe handling packaging and storage of all wastes
- Ensure the safe transportation of wastes to a final disposal site

Waste processing receives major emphasis at Rocky Flats

- Rocky Flats generates approximately 75 000 cubic feet of radioactive transuranic (TRU) waste each year
- Rocky Flats generates approximately 200 000 cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste each year