



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

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DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

Ref: 8WM-EA

MAY 3 - 1991

Beth Brainard  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Office  
P.O. Box 928  
Golden, Colorado 80402-0928

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ENERGY  
R.F.O. MAIL ROOM  
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Subject: Rocky Flats Plant Site-Wide  
Environmental Impact  
Statement; EPA Scoping  
Comments

Dear Ms. Brainard:

In response to the Notice of Intent announced by the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding preparation of a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rocky Flats Plant, the Region VIII office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers the following scoping comments for consideration in the EIS.

In light of DOE's goal to resume operations in the near future, the EIS must address potential operational conflicts that disrupt ongoing or planned environmental restoration or waste management activities. The EIS should explore mechanisms to allow remediation of safety and environmental violations, without delay in schedule, prior to re-establishing operations in affected facilities.

CERCLA restoration activities, as contained in the recently executed Interagency Agreement, must not be delayed while awaiting completion of the NEPA process. In order to avoid delays or duplication of efforts, EPA recommends that the EIS incorporate by reference all CERCLA restoration activities.

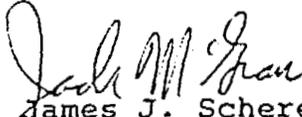
The Site-Wide EIS should recognize the relocation of the Plant's functions as being the preferred alternative of the Programmatic EIS (PEIS). Therefore, in order to minimize environmental impacts, proposed projects of the Site-Wide EIS should be limited to essential construction having both long-term as well as near-term utility.

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Attached are detailed comments on these and other aspects of the EIS. If you have any questions concerning the issues discussed, please contact Larry Kimmel of my staff at (303) 293-1237.

Sincerely,

  
James J. Scherer  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure