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Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center

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June 6, 1997

Mr. John Rampe
DOE Rocky Flats, Bldg. 460
P. O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

Dear John:

Ever since Iggy Litaor claimed to discover rapid migration of plutonium in the soil at Rocky Flats during the heavy rains of May 1995 the extent of the migration has been a concern of the knowing public not only at Rocky Flats but also at other sites contaminated with plutonium. How can we get the truth of what happened and thus of what might happen again here or elsewhere? We can't get it from Litaor, since soon after his discovery he was dismissed and replaced by a four-person Actinide Migration Panel. It's not yet clear that we can get the truth from this group.

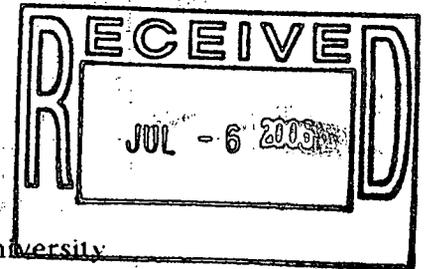
In a March 31, 1997, public presentation on the work of the Actinide Migration Panel, Bruce D. Honeyman, a member of the Panel, stated: "All evidence suggests that 1 to 10 microcuries of Pu was transported from the 903 Pad hillside area to Pond C-2 in late spring 1995, not ca. 0.5 curie as has been suggested by Litaor." Since a microcurie is 1/millionth of a curie, Mr. Honeyman was telling those present that there is a huge gap between the Panel's estimate and Litaor's. Litaor, however, at a May 15, 1996, meeting, provided a very different estimate than the one attributed to him by Mr. Honeyman. He stated: "On May 17, 1995, significant overland flow occurred that remobilized an unknown amount of Pu (estimated between 10 microcuries to 0.5 curie)."

There thus is a very large discrepancy between what Litaor is known to have said and what Mr. Honeyman alleges that he said. Either Litaor said different things at different times, or Honeyman was misrepresenting the conclusions of another scientist -- which would discredit Honeyman's work. To clear things up, on April 9, 1997, I wrote Mr. Honeyman asking him to document what he had said about Litaor and to let me hear back by Friday, April 25. Having heard nothing, on Thursday, May 1, I called him. From the ensuing conversation I can only conclude that Mr. Honeyman misrepresented Litaor's work. Unless you can provide me with evidence to the contrary I will assume that this conclusion stands.

Yours truly,

LeRoy Moore
LeRoy Moore

cc: Federico Peña, Secretary of Energy
Alvin Alm, DOE EM-1
Governor Roy Römer
Lt. Governor Gail Schoettler
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative
Jessie Roberson, DOE Rocky Flats
Steve Tarlton, CDPHE Rocky Flats Program
Tim Rehder, EPA Rocky Flats Program
Bruce Honeyman, Colorado School of Mines
Niels Schonbeck, Chemistry Department, Metro State University
Len Ackland, Journalism School, University of Colorado



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