



**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board  
Recommendation 2005-4**

**Letter to Mike Owen Regarding the Development of a  
Local Stakeholder Organization for Rocky Flats**

**Approved March 7, 2005**

Letter to:

Mr. Mike Owen  
Director, Office of Legacy Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) is very interested in the creation of an effective post-closure stakeholder participation program for Rocky Flats. Our interest is based on the positive experience of our own participation in the cleanup decision-making for Rocky Flats during the past eleven years. We are pleased, therefore, that Congress has established a mechanism to formalize future public involvement by creating and providing funding for a Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). We also are appreciative of the manner in which your office is seeking local input into the establishment of the LSO. Specifically, we would like to thank Legacy Management (LM) for sending representatives to our Stakeholder Workshop on Future Public Participation at Rocky Flats held last June and to the recent community discussion at our February Board meeting. The direct participation by your office in these discussions sets a very positive tone for your future working relationship with this community.

As we have stated in previous communications, RFCAB believes the creation of a Rocky Flats LSO should result in an organization that is broadly representative of the local community. Our members understand that the changing mission at the site requires the site to seek out new individuals and groups who may not have been previously involved. Based on our experience, it is very important that all who are appointed and serve on the future LSO do so as full and equal participants in all activities and decision-making. This sentiment is strongly supported by those who have participated in our workshops and meetings.

Because of the broader community's desire for full and equal participation, RFCAB is concerned by the continued insistence by some representatives of local governments that they alone will comprise the LSO, with the possibility of a lesser role for non-elected persons. This insistence comes despite statements to the contrary by both DOE and Congressional representatives. RFCAB does not believe that a morphing of the current Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments into the LSO is in the best interest of this community. Limiting full LSO membership to elected officials or their designees only, with some subsidiary role for non-elected persons, is contrary to the culture of openness and full involvement by all interested stakeholders that DOE has worked so hard to establish.

In the recent position paper, "Establishment of U.S. Department of Energy Legacy Management Local Stakeholder Organizations," LM lays out a strategy whereby the LSO would be established and run concurrently with both RFCAB and the Coalition of Local Governments. RFCAB strongly supports this idea. In this manner, RFCAB and the Coalition would continue to focus on the cleanup and closure of the site, while the LSO would focus on the transition to Legacy Management. It is RFCAB's intention to work closely with the LSO during the transition period. Once the regulatory closure of the site is complete, RFCAB will cease operation. By allowing RFCAB, the Coalition, and the LSO to operate for a period of time in parallel, we

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believe a smooth and seamless transition of public involvement can be made and that important institutional knowledge will be retained.

Because Legacy Management bears the ultimate responsibility for public involvement, RFCAB believes LM should take on the role to organize and solicit membership on the future LSO. RFCAB does not support the method outlined in the position paper that gives the responsibility for membership selection to local elected officials. Because elected officials represent only one segment of the larger stakeholder community, it would not be fair to provide them such an advantage in determining the composition of the future LSO. It is important for the credibility of the LSO that a more open and transparent membership selection process be developed.

- RFCAB believes the model used in its own establishment twelve years ago provides the most equitable and credible means for creating a diverse and broadly representative LSO. Adapting this model to the creation of the LSO would consist of the following steps:
- Legacy Management would first convene discussions within the community seeking input as to whom and how many should be represented on the LSO. The goal for these discussions would be to develop community consensus on the major stakeholder categories to be represented on the LSO such as local governments, former site workers, environmental groups, and others. Next, consensus would be sought on how many representatives within each category should be included.
- Based on these discussions, LM would develop an application process and reach out to local governments, organizations, and individuals in order to recruit candidates for LSO membership.
- After receiving the applications, LM would select a limited number of initial LSO members to fill at least one slot in each of the major representational categories identified during the earlier community discussions.
- These initial members chosen by LM would be responsible for reviewing the other applications and selecting the remaining LSO members with concurrence by LM.

RFCAB is most willing to work with your office in whatever manner is necessary to establish an effective LSO. Please let us know how we can be of assistance. If you have any questions or comments about the points raised in this letter, please contact either me at 303-494-4507 or Ken Korkia, our Executive Director, at 303-966-7857.

As an attachment to this letter, we are including a full list of our members and some brief biographical information for each. We provide this information as an example of the diversity in experience and expertise that helps sustain the success of our group and we offer it as a model for the future success of the LSO.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gerald L. DePoorter  
Chair

cc: Dave Geiser, Office of Legacy Management  
Tony Carter, Office of Legacy Management  
Audrey Berry, DOE-GJO  
Scott Surovchak, DOE-LM  
Frazer Lockhart, DOE-RFPO  
Karen Lutz, DOE-RFPO  
Congressman Mark Udall  
Congressman Bob Beauprez  
Congressman Tom Tancredo  
Senator Wayne Allard

Senator Ken Salazar  
David Abelson, Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

### **Attachment: RFCAB Member Biographical Information**

**Suzanne Allen.** Suzanne is Vice President Compliance & Security for SunCorp Corporate Credit Union, a wholesale provider of financial services for credit unions nationwide. She has been active in environmental and health related issues for a number of years and served on the board of Colorado's Work Injured Citizens Coalition (WICC). She is a member of ARMA International and the National Homeland Security Organization, InfraGard. She attended Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, as well as, Metropolitan State College and Regis University in Denver, Colorado, focusing on Business. Suzanne resides and works in Westminster, Colorado.

**Gerald DePoorter (Chair).** An emeritus professor of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, Gerald has a Ph.D. in Engineering, an MS in Engineering, and a BS in Ceramic Engineering. He has previously worked as a geochemistry project manager and research scientist for Los Alamos National Laboratory, and has co-authored numerous scientific studies and reports. Gerald is a resident of rural Boulder County near Superior.

**Joe Downey (Vice Chair).** Joe is a geohydrologist with Downey & Gutentag, and previously worked for nearly 30 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. He has a BSG from the University of Arizona, with specialized studies in lunar geology, limnology and computer science, among others. Joe has published more than 100 books, papers and professional journal articles in the fields of geology, groundwater, paleontology and hydrology. He is a resident of Arvada.

**Earl Gunia.** Earl is a retired naval officer living in Littleton. He served on nuclear ballistic submarines, at their support sites, and at acquisition command centers. During his career, Earl also worked on the development and activation of two new naval submarine bases. Earl was a certified Department of Defense (DoD) Weapons Acquisition Manager. He also has ten years experience as a consultant to DoD on various issues including base closures. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado, and is a member of both the National Electronic Engineering Honor Fraternity and the Engineering Management Society.

**Erin Hamby.** A resident of Boulder, Erin is the coordinator of the Rocky Flats/Disarmament Collective at the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. Erin graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a degree in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology. Her interests around Rocky Flats include the health effects of radiation, worker protection and compensation issues, and land use of the site after closure. Erin also works at the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless.

**Victor Holm.** Victor is a geological engineer, with 25 years experience in mineral exploration and mine engineering, much of it in foreign countries. He worked for Freeport Indonesia as an engineer at the Grasberg Mine on the island of New Guinea. A member of the American Institute of Mineral Engineers, Victor has a degree in Geologic Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. He lives in Lakewood.

**Bill Kossack (Secretary).** Bill is a statistical and data mining consultant. He has a BS in Zoology, an MS in statistics, and has experience working in and supervising prairie management projects in Texas. A wildlife photographer, Bill lives in Westminster.

**Mary Mattson.** Mary has been a chemistry instructor at Front Range Community College for 14 years. She has a BA in Math and Chemistry with a minor in Physics, as well as an MS and a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Mary was chair of the Front Range Community College Science and Technology Department for three years, coordinator of the Manufacturing Process Technology program for three years and co-chair of the two-year/four-year Colorado state education committee on Chemistry for two years. A resident of Westminster, Mary is a member of the American Chemical Society and Sigma Xi.

**Mike Maus.** Mike is president of Mike Maus Associates, a public relations consulting firm. He has been a senior correspondent, reporter, and national news anchor for NBC News radio and television in New York, and was a reporter and commentator for CBS News radio. Mike was the host and

producer of "Worldview" on Minnesota Public Radio. He has also worked in media and public relations management, marketing, and promotion. Mike is a resident of Arvada.

**Bill McNeill.** A resident of Lafayette, Bill has a PhD in Physical Chemistry with over 53 years of professional experience. He is the former Director of Technical Operations at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Bill currently works as an environmental technology consultant and serves as an expert witness in cases involving contaminated industrial sites.

**Andrew Ross (Treasurer).** An Arvada resident, Andrew is a water quality specialist with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He has expertise in Colorado water quality laws and regulations and a working knowledge of other state and federal environmental programs and regulations. Andrew has a BS in Geological Engineering and an MS in Geology. He also serves on the Arvada Planning Commission.

**Hank Stovall.** Hank is a retired engineering manager, having spent most of his career with AT&T. He lives in Broomfield. A committed public servant, Hank has served on numerous boards and commissions, including six terms on the Broomfield City Council. Involved for many years with Rocky Flats, Hank has served as a member of the Rocky Flats Health Advisory Panel, the Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative, the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments, and was Co-chair of the Rocky Flats Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel. Hank holds a BS in physics.

**Phil Tomlinson.** Phil is a resident of Thornton, Colorado, and is retired from the United States Navy nuclear power program having served in various positions including Engineering Officer and Radiological Controls Officer aboard nuclear powered vessels. After leaving the Navy, Phil worked for two utility companies at their nuclear generating facilities and was involved in the decommissioning program at the Fort St. Vrain nuclear power plant. Most recently, he has worked as a consultant for various environmental cleanup projects, including the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Rocky Flats. Phil is a member of several professional societies and holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Radiological Health Sciences and is a registered Professional Engineer.

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The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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