



## Rocky Flats Cold War Museum

### For Immediate Release

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**(Images Available)**

### Rocky Flats Cold War Museum One Step Closer

Feasibility study now available on the Web at [www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org](http://www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org)

The Rocky Flats Cold War Museum board of directors today released findings of a comprehensive feasibility study conducted by an internationally recognized consulting team. This study concludes that a facility commemorating the former nuclear weapons production plant located 16 miles northwest of Denver is economically viable, and would attract from 88,000-110,000 visitors each year.

Informal Learning Experiences, Inc. of Washington D.C. spent December 2002 through July 2003 analyzing the potential for developing a museum related to the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, which is now undergoing cleanup and closure. The target date for site closure is late in 2006, after which most of the site will become a National Wildlife Refuge.

Museum consultants met with over 70 leaders in the Denver area to review interests and concerns about Rocky Flats, attended related meetings, researched other local cultural attractions, reviewed socioeconomic data in the region, and visited “nuclear” museums in other states. Key findings of the feasibility and scoping study are:

- The museum should be located on or near the site of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (the preferred museum site is the current visitors’ center located at the west entrance to Rocky Flats site on State Highway 93).
- The museum should open in 2006 to coincide with official scheduled closing of the Rocky Flats site and its transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation of the refuge.
- Exhibits should commemorate and interpret Rocky Flats events in ways that are sensitive to the diverse perspectives of its history, as well as serving as a forum where the public can monitor the ongoing environmental and social legacies of the plant.
- Capital costs are estimated at \$10-13 million for the planned facility that will include approximately 20,000 square feet of immersive and multimedia exhibits.

This comprehensive study provides critical information necessary for the planning, implementation and ongoing management of the museum, according to Steve Davis, Executive Director. “The Rocky Flats story is one of the most fascinating and multifaceted historical and technological sagas of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That history—and its legacies—will finally be presented through a comprehensive set of exhibits and educational programs that will appeal to people of all ages .”

The Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant site has had local, national, and global significance since it was built more than 50 years ago. The plant, its employees, and regional community activists played an integral historical role during the Cold War—the defining geopolitical struggle of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Federal legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne and U.S. Congressman Mark Udall (signed into law in 2001) designates Rocky Flats as a National Wildlife Refuge, and includes a provision to develop a museum to commemorate the historical, scientific and environmental legacy of the site.

Sen. Allard stated, "I am pleased to see the vision of the Rocky Flats Museum coming to fruition. Many individuals and communities have worked hard to ensure that we never forget the commitment to freedom that the Cold War Veterans have given, and this museum is one way to keep that spirit alive. I'm looking forward to working with the museum board in the future and seeing what their final plan will entail."

Congressman Udall said, "As Rocky Flats is transformed into a sanctuary for wildlife and open space amenities, we must not forget the hard work, and in some regrettable cases the sacrifices, of the many people who have worked there to ensure our national security. Rocky Flats has been a very important part of the economy, the communities and the landscape of this north Denver area, and this museum will be an important facility to commemorate that legacy while also promoting understanding, learning and remembering of this aspect of our state's and the nation's history."

In 2000, a variety of interested stakeholders began the process of creating a non-profit organization devoted to developing the museum. Kaiser-Hill, the lead contractor to the U.S. Department of Energy which owns Rocky Flats, provided a \$150,000 planning grant for efforts including the feasibility study. Museum board members have been collecting Rocky Flats artifacts and have begun an ambitious oral history project to capture the stories of plant workers, retirees, activists, and others involved with the often-controversial site. The board will now concentrate on fundraising and master planning for the facility and its programs. For information or to volunteer to help with the museum project, please contact Steve Davis at (303) 786-8018 or visit the web site at [www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org](http://www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org).

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