

Contact: Karen Lutz, 303/966-4546
Bill Badger, 303/966-5754

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Flats Cleanup 47 Percent Complete

GOLDEN, Colo., February 26, 2003 – The Rocky Flats Site continues to make significant progress toward final site cleanup and closure with approximately 47 percent of the project completed at the end of 2002.

“The landscape of Rocky Flats is changing every day,” said DOE Rocky Flats Manager Gene Schmitt. “More fences, structures and buildings are coming down, waste is being packaged and shipped at unprecedented rates, and more environmental remediation is being completed than ever thought possible just a few years ago.” Schmitt added that the progress achieved during 2002 moves the site ever closer toward the goal of transitioning to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Kaiser-Hill accomplished \$731 million worth of work during 2002 at a cost of \$632 million. This is approximately \$116 million more work completed than was planned for the year at a cost of approximately \$100 million less than was estimated.

"We are running under the total projected cost and are ahead of schedule," said Kaiser-Hill President and CEO Alan Parker. "Completion of our many milestones last year is a great tribute to the ingenuity and determination of the entire Rocky Flats workforce." Parker stressed that innovative strategies and safe work practices continue to be paramount to the overall success of the closure project.

The key accomplishments for 2002 include:

- Packaged plutonium metals and oxides into more than 1,200 of 1,950 long-term storage containers. Shipments are on schedule to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, a critical milestone toward site closure. The nuclear mission is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2003.
- Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 trucks will leave Rocky Flats during the Closure Project. For the third year in a row, Rocky Flats was the top shipper of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, NM, disposing of 3,486 cubic meters of waste in 2002. This also was the fourth consecutive year of shipping more low-level waste to the Nevada Test Site than any other Department of Energy (DOE) site, disposing of 32,174 cubic meters of waste in 2002.
- To date, the site has shipped 5,200 of 12,500 cubic meters of transuranic waste; shipped 23,000 of 61,000 cubic meters of low-level mixed waste; and shipped 68,000 of 207,000 cubic meters of low-level waste.

- To date, workers have demolished 232 of nearly 800 structures on site.
 - Southside Industrial Area demolition included Building 886, the first of five uranium-contaminated buildings; Building 850, a large administration facility; Building 111, a large office facility; and Building 125, a calibration laboratory.
 - Remediated eight of the top 10 highest risk environmental remediation sites.
 - Began remediation of the 903 Pad, the site's largest soil removal project, and completed environmental remediation of the Solar Evaporation Ponds.
- Workers in Building 771 removed the last of 240 gloveboxes in the facility in December, reaching a tremendous milestone for Rocky Flats and the end of an era for what was once dubbed the “most dangerous building in America.”
 - Entered and decontaminated a highly contaminated room in Building 771 known as an Infinity Room.
 - To date, removed more than 850 of 1,324 highly-contaminated gloveboxes across the site.
 - Full-scale deactivation and decommissioning activities are under way in all four of the major former nuclear buildings.

Because of innovations and the use of new technology, the total amount of waste expected to be generated throughout the closure project has been reduced. Using cerium nitrate as a chemical decontamination agent has reduced the amount of transuranic waste by thousands of cubic meters.

It was also an outstanding year for employee innovation. Ideas and processes were deployed that cut time and cost and improved safety. Often the innovation was the result of simply recognizing the decommissioning potential of widely used products and processes. For example, using a spray-on coating of polyurea to package and ship large waste items or using water jets to cut up tanks. In many cases, the innovations not only moved Rocky Flats closer to safe closure, but drew keen interest from other DOE sites.

The project met or exceeded all regulatory milestones for 2002 ahead of schedule under the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA). The RFCA was negotiated among the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy in 1996 to guide the cleanup. Under the agreement, milestones are established each year to measure progress toward completion of the RFCA Vision and interim end state.

Rocky Flats is a DOE-owned cleanup and closure site operated by Kaiser-Hill Company under an accelerated closure contract. The Rocky Flats mission includes special nuclear material management and shipment, nuclear deactivation and decommissioning, waste management and shipment, environmental cleanup and site closure.

