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For Immediate Release

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## **Rocky Flats Workforce Transition Program Launched by Kaiser-Hill Colorado Elected Officials Praise Innovative Effort**

**GOLDEN, Colo., April 15, 2003 – Kaiser-Hill, the company charged with turning Rocky Flats into a National Wildlife Refuge, today launched an unprecedented Workforce Transition Program that aims to assist 4,000 employees whose jobs will end over the next three years.**

**The Rocky Flats closure plan calls for the phasing of job reductions as the project proceeds. As their tasks are completed, groups of workers will have a full menu of services under the Workforce Transition Program to help them move to new careers, start a new business, retire or make other choices.**

**“The success of the Workforce Transition Program will benefit the entire metro area, because Rocky Flats workers bring substantial economic benefit to Front Range communities,” said Len Martinez, Kaiser-Hill vice-president and CFO, who is leading the Transition Program. He noted that spending by Rocky Flats workers generates an additional 7,000 regional jobs, equating to more than 11,000 total jobs affected by the closure.**

**At the launch of the program today, Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton sounded a key theme that captures the essence of the program. “These highly skilled workers will soon be available for hire to many local businesses,” she said. “Given their dedication and work ethic, the Rocky Flats workers will serve our communities well through other career venues after the last building at Rocky Flats is gone.”**

**Norton was one of a cadre of top Colorado elected officials, including Congressman Mark Udall and Congressman Bob Beauprez, who helped launch the innovative program. As part of Workforce Transition Program, Kaiser-Hill also has created a high-tech Career Transition Center managed by a professional outplacement firm that will provide a wide range of services including career counseling, an entrepreneurial resource program, a leading-edge internet-based, career transition assistance tool, and many other innovative resources.**

**“I just have to say that the workers at Rocky Flats are top notch,” said Senator Wayne Allard in a prepared release about the program. “They're the best and I will forever be indebted to them. I think**

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**the people of Colorado are indebted to them because of their hard work and commitment to safely cleanup Rocky Flats by 2006. I just want them to know how much we all appreciate everything they've done for America and Colorado."**

**The Rocky Flats workforce possesses a broad range of skills. The workforce is comprised of facility operators, precision metal workers, heavy equipment and utilities operators, machinists, lab technicians, security personnel, engineers, project managers, scientists, and other professionals and technical support staff. They are also trained to the highest occupational safety standards. A key factor in their value to other businesses is the flexibility they have shown in transitioning from manufacturing and processing to facility closure and environmental cleanup.**

**Congressman Mark Udall, whose district includes Rocky Flats said, "The people who worked at Rocky Flats have been as essential to our national security as those fighting on the front lines. We have a moral obligation and social responsibility to see that these workers are treated with respect and that their skills and expertise can continue to be used productively. I am proud to support efforts that will help these workers remain productive members of society and am pleased that this Career Transition Center is being provided to help them do just that."**

**"Every single worker at Rocky Flats should be commended as part of a great achievement. A job that many thought couldn't be accomplished - at any price - is going to be done on budget, on time. These exceptional, dedicated, experienced people will carry forward a noble legacy to their next job and throughout their careers," said Congressman Bob Beauprez.**

**"I am glad to see the Colorado Delegation, the Lt. Governor's office, Department of Energy and Kaiser-Hill jointly acknowledge the tremendous service the Rocky Flats workforce is doing for the community, Colorado and the country," said Tony DeMaiori, president of United Steelworkers of America Local Union 8301. "We served on the front line of the Cold War and are now proudly and safely cleaning up Rocky Flats."**

**"Our guardforce is likely the first group impacted by site closure. I appreciate any assistance this Program will provide our guards as our mission at Rocky Flats is diminished once the Special Nuclear Materials are safely removed from the site," said Dan Chesshir, president of the Rocky Flats Security Officers Independent Union Local 1.**

**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.**

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