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Demolition continues to make progress at Rocky Flats

GOLDEN, Colo., Sept. 25, 2003 – Rocky Flats employees continue to knock down buildings ahead of schedule. Another building demolition has been added to the growing list of structures removed from the former nuclear weapons facility.

Building 865, a former metallurgy operations building, was the 301st structure of 805 to be demolished at Rocky Flats. The 38,250-square foot building used approximately 400 end-dumps to remove the rubble and building waste. Building 866, a waste processing building for Building 865, will be demolished today, September 25.

“Pre-demolition activities, including removing piping, contaminated duct work, and heavy equipment was the most involved part of the project,” said Mark Lesinski, Kaiser-Hill project manager. “The 100-person team spent countless hours before the demolition, safely removing hazards such as equipment and infrastructure that was contaminated with depleted uranium and beryllium.”

The Building, constructed out of reinforced concrete, was originally scheduled for demolition in 2005. Large metal machining equipment had to be removed before the building could come done. Some items, such as a Sutton Extrusion Press, weighed as much as 344,000 pounds. Other heavy items included a 240,000 pound Inertia Block and an 185,000 pound Erie Drop Hammer.

Building 865 was built in 1970 to house metalworking equipment and contained metal fabrication, machining and processing shops. Much of the equipment in the building was used for rolling, shearing, forging, grinding, pressing, heat-treating, or vacuum casting.

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.