

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2013

James Malcolm Melius, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Chairman
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS:C-46
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Dr. Melius:

We write to support the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) evaluation report for SEC-00192 recommending the inclusion of an additional class of workers at the Rocky Flats Plant in the Special Exposure Cohort. This long-awaited action will help hundreds of nuclear workers get the care and benefits they deserve.

As you know, Congress enacted the Energy Employees Occupational Illness and Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) in 2000 to provide health care and benefits to workers injured among the approximately 600,000 workers employed at U.S. atomic weapons program facilities throughout the country. The Rocky Flats plant located in Jefferson County, Colorado produced nuclear weapons triggers from 1952 until 1989. The facility utilized plutonium and more than 8,000 chemicals during production of these triggers, and cleanup from the contamination took more than a decade.

As was the case in facilities across the United States, Rocky Flats was plagued by workplace accidents, spills, fires, emissions and leaking containers. Furthermore, records kept by the facility were incomplete because the true dangers of the materials being handled were unknown at the time. Workers at Rocky Flats were unknowingly putting themselves at risk on behalf of their country.

The evaluation report from NIOSH clearly outlines NIOSH's inability to sufficiently estimate the radiation levels workers were exposed to from 1952 to 1983 and concludes such radiation doses more than likely endangered the health of the workers. Pursuant to 42 USC § 7384q, such determination authorizes the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health to recommend to Secretary Sebelius for this class of workers to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort. We applaud NIOSH's work on this petition, and urge them to continue their efforts evaluating Neptunium and other exposures at Rocky Flats between 1984 and 2005.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of NIOSH's recommendations and for your work on behalf of our nation's Cold War Patriots.

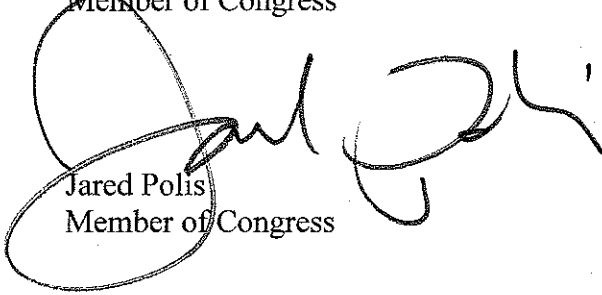
Sincerely,




Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator