

# Information Bulletin

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**Title:** Rocky Flats Cleanup Project Lessons Learned (GAO Report)

**Date:** July 18, 2006

**Identifier:** 2006-RL-HNF-0028

**Lessons Learned Summary:** The nuclear clean-up of the Rocky Flats project offers many lessons about innovative techniques, risk- and cost sharing contract provisions, accelerated cleanup processes, involvement of community groups, oversight of contractor controls over data quality, and cleanup verification processes.

Rocky Flats in 1995



Rocky Flats in 2005



**Discussion of Activities:** The United States Government Accountability Office Report on [Nuclear Cleanup of Rocky Flats](#) (July 2006) concluded that lessons learned at Rocky Flats should be utilized at other Department of Energy (DOE) facilities, including Hanford. An effort termed the "Legacy Project" was begun in 2001 to start collecting project knowledge and lessons learned before the institutional memory was lost. This effort continued through the summer of 2005, drawing upon record documents, working papers and personal experience. A Rocky Flats Closure Legacy Report will soon be published that captures the 4-year effort of the Legacy Project.

**Analysis:** The GAO report includes lessons learned that could be useful for other DOE sites. One lesson involved questioning the usual disposal and remediation processes. For example, the accepted practice was that a glovebox or any part of one was, by definition, Transuranic waste. However, the contractor found a way to decontaminate gloveboxes and dispose of them much more easily and less expensively as low-level waste. According to a senior contractor official, this particular technical lesson learned at Rocky Flats may be applicable to DOE's cleanup work at the Hanford site.

**Recommendations:** Lessons learned from the GAO report and the DOE Rocky Flats Closure Legacy report (when issued) should be reviewed and analyzed by management and utilized as applicable.

**Cost Savings/Avoidance:** NA

**Work Function:** Decontamination and Decommissioning

**Hazards:** NA

**Keywords:** GAO, Cleanup, Rocky Flats Lessons Learned

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**References:** [NUCLEAR CLEANUP of ROCKY FLATS DOE Can Use Lessons Learned to Improve Oversight of Other Cleanup Projects](#)

**Distribution:** General - PHMC Projects and Programs