

Statement of Jon Lipsky before the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee

Colorado General Assembly

March 9, 2010

Madam Chairwoman Todd, Committee Members, and citizens of Colorado I bid you greetings and thanks for allowing me to be heard concerning House Bill 10-1127 "Concerning Information to be provided to visitors at Rocky Flats."

My name is Jon Lipsky. In 1989, as an FBI Special Agent, I led the FBI raid on Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant and the ensuing 3 year FBI investigation of widespread environmental crimes and contamination at the plant. More than 20 years later, I've driven 1200 miles – on my own nickel - to tell you a story. I think it may be one of the most important stories you will ever hear about Rocky Flats and the danger it poses - even now– to the public.

Story about the analyst at Rocky Flats in January 1991:

1. The analyst showed me the graphs and reports and infra-red pictures of an aerial study of radioactive isotopes on the grounds of the Plant which had been ordered by the DOE plant manager in August 1989.
2. The analyst showed me the reports and explained the elevated levels of strontium and cesium.
3. The analyst said this meant there had been a criticality, a nuclear explosion which creates widespread radioactive contamination. I saw the graphs and charts and the analyst was correct. The radioactive contamination was spread throughout the plant and extended into the surrounding lands.
4. I reported the information to Peter Murtha, US Department of Justice who said the Government was not interested in pursuing the information.

5. The report has never been seen publicly since that time. The government has never to this day admitted that there had been any criticalities at Rocky Flats.
6. The strontium and cesium report which is circulating from the DOE is NOT the one I saw.
7. DOE is saying the 1989 report showed no criticality and no elevated levels of strontium and cesium.
8. That's NOT the report I saw.
9. The report I saw has either been deep sixed; or the original report has been altered.

What does this story mean?

1. Besides showing how much government deception and cover-up there is at Rocky Flats, it also shows that the government's clean up isn't clean enough for public access at this former nuclear weapons plant.
2. The cleanup NEVER involved cleaning up all the surface soil. The government admits this. So this widespread strontium and cesium contamination has not been cleaned up. It was everywhere throughout the plant and outside its borders, too.
3. If the cleanup officials don't know it's there, they can't clean it up.
4. Strontium and cesium are both highly radioactive isotopes and people should NOT be exposed to them. They WILL be exposed to them if they go to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge and bring it home.

I have another story for you, also from the FBI raid. And I have a video to back it up.

The video has been edited down from the original video from the FBI raid but the images you will see are NOT altered and show widespread contamination and illegal acts by the government and its contractors.

1. The video shows that weapons production centers at the plant were discharging radioactive and hazardous wastes and you can see where it's being sprayed over the grounds and running off into tributaries which lead to drinking water supplies.
2. You can see the incinerator is operating. The incinerator was supposed to be shut down, but DOE cheated and was spewing radioactive smoke and ash – contaminated with plutonium and other dangerous wastes around the grounds and offsite.
3. Besides showing that the government was cheating – they weren't supposed to be spraying radioactive waste, and they lied to the EPA about it; they were under a DOE shut down order for the incinerator, but operated it anyway – this video shows you that the contamination was widespread across the surface of the grounds, where it has not been cleaned up. Again, the clean up was never designed to remove the radioactive materials from the entire plant.

I could tell you there are many other things about Rocky Flats – many other dangers, other evidence of contamination and cheating – which the clean up officials never knew about because the federal government hid the documents in the Grand Jury vault.

I'm not blaming the clean up. I'm just telling you that it's not clean enough for public access.

My wife Patti is here today with me. Our three lovely daughters were growing up here in Denver while I worked on the Rocky Flats raid and investigation. I guarantee you that none of them will ever set foot on the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. It should not be opened to the public, ladies and gentlemen. It is not clean enough. And it is incredibly dangerous.