

Kaiser-Hill workers free Colorado bomb plant of all weapons-grade plutonium

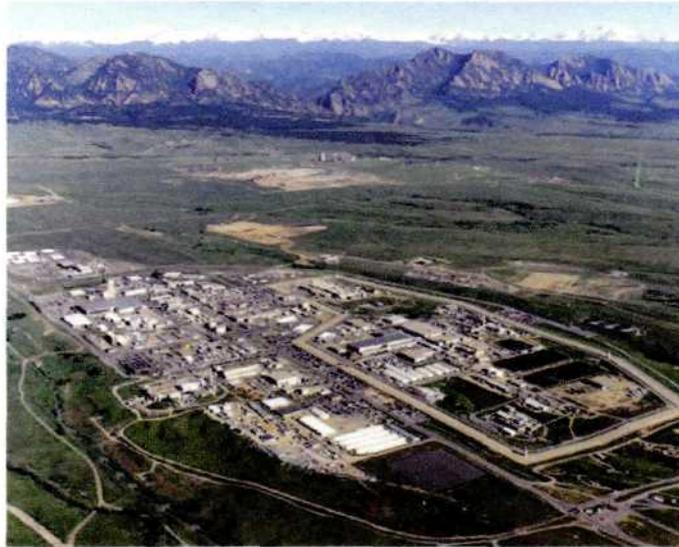
August 19, 2003, is a historic day for Kaiser-Hill employees and the millions of people living along the Front Range of Colorado.

It was a day of celebration and a symbolic demolition; a day denoting the removal of tons of weapons-grade plutonium from a former nuclear weapons component manufacturing plant.

Kaiser-Hill, a CH2M HILL joint venture, is a pioneer in nuclear-waste cleanup and has achieved at Rocky Flats what many thought was unachievable.

"Though early estimates put the timeline and cost of the cleanup at 65 years and \$37 billion, Kaiser-Hill took the contract with a 2006 deadline for \$7.3 billion," *The Denver Post* reported in its coverage of the celebration.

Kaiser-Hill assumed cleanup and management responsibilities on July 1, 1995, after nearly 40 years of weapons production during the unprecedented arms race with the Soviet Union.



Razing Rocky Flats. Shipping the last of the weapons-grade plutonium off this U.S. facility is one of many significant milestones for Kaiser-Hill employees. This long-awaited accomplishment marks a shift to a reduced level of security at the site and frees up millions of dollars for demolition work to expedite the razing of hundreds of buildings.

"Getting this material off site is a tremendous accomplishment and the culmination of everything we've been doing with weapons-grade material since day one," said Alan Parker, Kaiser-Hill president and chief executive officer. "When we started this job in 1995, we were known as the most vulnerable plutonium facility in the country. Now we're the first in the country to eliminate that threat."

Rocky Flats was a massive chemical-plant-foundry-machine-shop-manufacturing facility, and its primary medium was plutonium, which was used for bomb triggers. For 36 years, often running three shifts every 24 hours, workers processed more than 100 tons of the radioactive, pyrophoric metal.

There is still much to do as the site is transformed from a sprawling, 385-acre

production area with a 6,000-acre buffer zone into a wildlife refuge, but dedicated workers are safely making it happen by leaps and bounds.

Site employees, members of Colorado's Congressional delegation and Department of Energy officials celebrated the removal of the weapons-grade material by watching the demolition of the last security checkpoint to the site's protected area. The demolition not only symbolizes the end of an era but also marks a shift in millions of dollars being spent for security, which can now be used to accelerate the demolition of the site's hundreds of remaining buildings.

In June of next year, Building 771, once known as the most dangerous building in America, will be reduced to rubble. In three years, the site will become a national wildlife refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Congratulations to Kaiser-Hill and the hundreds of employees who are safely closing down this Cold War legacy.



Tending turtles. Marc Krekos rescues an adult western painted turtle from a lake being drained at a Superfund site in Troutdale, Ore. CH2M HILL since 1996 has been providing a variety of services such as environmental remediation and building demolition at the 780-acre Alcoa Reynolds Metals Company site. This turtle is one of four captured and moved from a lake used for the storage of sedimentation that is now being drained and excavated. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has placed this species of turtle on its "species-of-concern" list because of declining population resulting from shrinking habitat and poor-quality habitat as well as the presence of non-native predators. The captured turtles now reside in nearby East Lake.

Words of Wisdom

"Diversity is much more than consideration of race and gender, it is valuing each person for who they are and what they bring to the table. It yields strength in people, and strong people are the embodiment of CH2M HILL."

CH2M HILL DIVERSITY MANAGER FAYE TATE