

## Kaiser-Hill announces physical completion of Rocky Flats cleanup

On Oct. 13 Kaiser-Hill, a CH2M HILL company, announced the successful completion of the physical work to clean up and close Rocky Flats, a U.S. Department of Energy facility that supported the nation's nuclear weapons program for nearly 40 years.

Rocky Flats, located near Denver, produced plutonium and enriched uranium "triggers" for nuclear weapons from 1952 until 1989. Every nuclear weapon in the current U.S. arsenal contains triggers produced at Rocky Flats. Kaiser-Hill's cleanup effort began in 1995.

The announcement represents the culmination of a 10-year effort to complete the largest, most complex environmental cleanup project in U.S. history and converts an environmental liability into a community asset. Rocky Flats is also the first large nuclear weapons facility to be decommissioned and closed anywhere in the world.

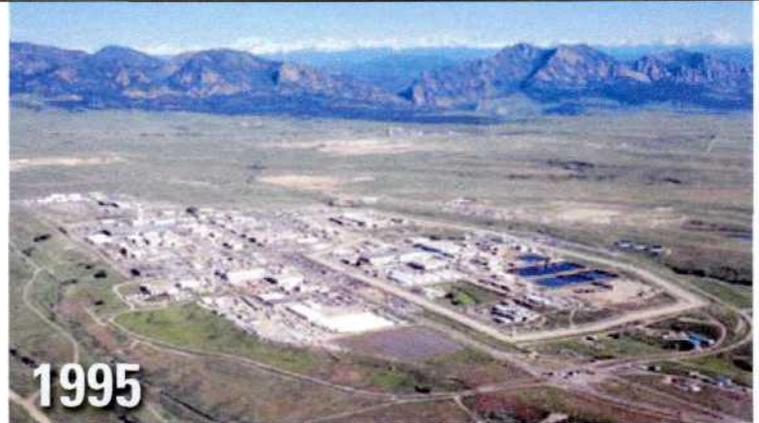
The Department of Energy will now review Kaiser-Hill's formal declaration. This formal process required by the closure contract will proceed over the next several weeks. Final acceptance of the work is the next step in the transition of the site to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

### Rocky Flats history and the 10 years leading up to its closure

The Rocky Flats history and the enormous role that Kaiser-Hill had in safely closing this Cold War legacy is a dynamic story of dedication, collaboration and innovation. A special edition of *e-Unlimited*, coming later this year, will feature the Rocky Flats story and the massive cleanup effort it took to close the site. <sup>UN</sup> Ltd



The building of Rocky Flats was a major economic boost to the Denver area, as depicted in this front page story from 1951.



1995



2005

In 1995, the DOE was working to close Rocky Flats by 2065 at a cost in excess of \$36 billion. The former nuclear weapons facility was struggling to break free from its past defense mission and, even though it was no longer in production, the site was costing taxpayers more than a half-billion dollars a year. There was no clear plan to tackle the cleanup and no place for the radioactive waste from the site to be shipped. Kaiser-Hill came to the site in 1995 and, 10 years later at a cost of less than \$7.5 billion, Rocky Flats will soon be turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will be transitioned into the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

### Numbers tell the story

The Rocky Flats closure project was an enormous undertaking. To complete its mission, Kaiser-Hill:

- Removed more than 21 tons of weapons-useable nuclear materials
- Decontaminated and demolished 800 structures, comprising more than 3 million square feet
- Drained 30,000 liters of plutonium solutions
- Size reduced and removed more than 1,450 contaminated production glove boxes and 700 tanks
- Stabilized and packaged 100 tons of high-content plutonium residue
- Performed environmental cleanup actions at 130 sites
- Dispositioned millions of classified items and excess property
- Shipped more than 600,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste—enough to fill a string of railcars 90 miles long