

Rocky Mountain Greenway part of transcript of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Westminster City Council Meeting.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFU68Igoenk&t=4429s>

1:03:25

Hello. Good evening. Thank you. Hi, my name is Alesia Casey, I appreciate the opportunity to address you this evening. I had submitted a comment. I didn't see it in the agenda. So I'm just going to read it just in the case that you guys did not receive it. So I submit this public comment to ask that the Westminster City Council vote to withdraw from the Rocky Mountain Greenway and the federal land access grant program for the and to deny the use of Westminster land along Indiana Street for Rocky Mountain Greenway use with sweeping views and quiet solace the land at Rocky Flats, offers it's easy to forget and dismiss what happened there. The manufacturing plant that was built there machined the most essential part of the nuclear bomb the plutonium core into shape at the center of this bomb using and creating tons of nuclear waste and some of the worst nuclear accidents in our nation's history. Unfortunately, **the weapons grade plutonium that was left there does not forget such as we do with these sweeping views and will continue to burn on into the very distant future where the half life of 24,000 years it's not just going to evaporate or go away.** It's only been 50 years since it was deposited there and left for our citizens and our commit our communities to both endure and guard. No one is denying that the plutonium is on the ground. They're just west of here, not the EPA, not the Department of Energy, not the Colorado Department of Health. In the comments I submitted, the Colorado Department of Health gave a presentation in 2015, which outlined a field north of the candelas development that had 38 test spots. **Each of those test spots came back positive for levels of plutonium. Some of those levels were well higher above any of the remediation that was allowed for the off site areas.** So it's out there, and it's you're gonna continue to stay there. And it's up to us to protect our communities and protect our health and stay out in the area. So what I'd like to do is **ask that you guys do not encourage the development of trails and and onto the land at the center of that site is a active nuclear waste Superfund site that has not been turned over.** And, you know, we do this just to educate because, you know, the turnover in city council is that a lot of people forget that. That's what happened out there. So there is a active nuclear waste site at the center of that site. **It's covered by six feet of soil. In the other graphic that I submitted is the cleanup standard. There's different levels of allowable levels of plutonium contamination in that soil.** So I think it's important that we remind everyone that there's an active nuclear waste site at the center of the site, and we don't want to encourage trails in and around the area where families could be exposed. I will pass these comments to you, and I yield the rest of my time.

1:06:51 Good evening. I'm Dr. Deborah Segaloff. By way of introduction I have a PhD in biochemistry, and I was a biomedical research scientist for nearly 40 years. Prior to my recent retirement, I was a professor in the Department of Molecular Physiology and biophysics, and a member of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. **Following federal and state safety guidelines,** I worked with radioactive compounds for all of my scientific career, and therefore I can't be accused of being phobic of radioactivity. In that context, once moving to Colorado and becoming better educated regarding Rocky Flats, I became involved with PSR, Colorado, where I'm currently on the board of directors. And I've been outspoken regarding the ongoing dangers to public health that the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge poses. The buffer zones surrounding the Rocky Flats plant that produced plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons was documented to be **highly contaminated with plutonium, and other toxic substances.** Nonetheless, by converting the buffer zone into a wildlife refuge, the government was not required to do any cleanup whatsoever of that land. **The CDPHE has defined plutonium levels of 50 pico grams per gram soil as safe to recreate on the refuge. This threshold was based on mathematical modeling that permitted an acceptable number of cancer deaths due to exposure. Note that this threshold is 500 to 5000 fold higher**

than background plutonium levels in surface soil resulting from the fallout of atmospheric testing of atomic weapons. Furthermore, it takes about 24,000 years until a given particle of plutonium has lost half of its radioactivity. Therefore, the soil on the refuge remains contaminated, essentially forever. When outside of the body, the alpha radiation emitted by plutonium poses no health risks because it can't pass through the skin. However, if soil dust containing plutonium is inhaled, ingested, or taken up by a cut in the skin, it remains lodged in one spot for the person's lifetime, continuously emitting radiation that bombard surrounding cells. This can cause DNA damage, and therefore significantly increase the person's risk of developing cancer years later. Plutonium cannot be easily detected. For example, you can't simply scan the ground with a Geiger counter. Instead, soil samples must be taken and then complex methods involving highly specialized equipment must be employed. In 2019 sampling of soil just outside the heavily contaminated eastern edge of the Refuge along Indiana Avenue detected a particularly hot particle of plutonium. This prompted Broomfield to withdraw from the building of the Jefferson Parkway, as well as the Rocky Mountain Greenway. The Rocky Mountain Greenway project involves the building of a trail in the most heavily contaminated region of the refuge. Building the overpass above Indiana Avenue to connect it with open space in Westminster would all but guarantee the transfer of plutonium far from the refuge. Upon completion of all the Greenway trails, individuals could use the trail in the most heavily contaminated eastern region of the refuge, and then continue north to the Rocky Mountain National Park, transporting plutonium into one of the most heavily visited parks in our national park system. Ultimately, the Greenway trails would not only put those using them at risk, but would also allow them to be tracked far outside the refuge, thereby putting many other individuals including visitors to the Rocky Mountain National Park at risk. Therefore, while you are elected by the citizens of Westminster, please keep in mind that your actions regarding the Greenway impact those living in Westminster, as well as when women and children far beyond the borders of Westminster, I as well as PSR, Colorado, urge you to place public safety above all else, and halt construction of the overpass above Indiana Avenue and withdrawal from the Greenway trail project. Thank you.

1:11: 55: Thank you. Good evening, Your Honor, and honorable counselors, staff and visitors. My name is Jon Lipsky. I'm a retired FBI agent. I served two search warrants at Rocky Flats in June of 1989 and it was subsequently closed and never to make thermal nuclear weapons any longer. Thanks to counselor aAzeottei? on tonight's pre and post study group meeting. Item three C is the consideration of the Rocky Mountain Greenway. And you've already heard quite a bit. I just like to add that your jurisdiction with the Rocky Mountain Greenway is that Rocky Flats was actually three operable units of a Superfund site. We all know about the doughnut in the hole or the Rocky Flats site itself in the middle of the Refuge is an ongoing Superfund site. The Refuge was operable unit two and portions of Westminster that was annexed in 1990 along the Indiana Street corridor was also in the Superfund site of operable unit three. I sent or I emailed my public comments, I think they're compelling and I hope they're given their due consideration. But I just like to point out that Federal Highway Administration is building a pedestrian bridge across Indiana Street from the most polluted or plutonium contaminated area of Westminster, on the east side of Indiana, to the most plutonium contaminated area within the Refuge. And on the Refuge, it's called the Windblown Area. On the Westminster side, it's the individual hazardous substance site 199. And that particular IHSS199 realized more plutonium than any other location, and I'm talking about the expansive area. OU3 is not only the eastern side of Indiana, but it's also south of the Refuge where Candelas is, some 20,000 plus acres. Now that lands along with the Refuge on the Westminster side were delisted by EPA in 2007. But the point of it is the soil disturbance, the digging below three feet, the standard changes from 50 picoCuries per gram and below three feet is 1000 to 7000. And below six feet, it's unlimited. And I don't know how Deep FH WA is going to dig. But I do have concerns about the contaminants being entrained into the air, not only for the workers, but also for the residents and anyone that passes by. And I thank you for your

attention to this. And I'm happy to be in wonderful Westminster Trillium. Thank you.  
Thank you.

1:43: 31 Welcome Good evening members of the Westminster City Council. My name is Giselle Herzfeld, and I'm here with the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm speaking as a community member who is deeply concerned about Westminster City Council's 2021 decision to enter into an inter governmental agreement for the construction of the Rocky Mountain Greenway trail and specifically the construction of an overpass crossing the Indiana Street corridor. I urge you to withdraw from the intergovernmental agreement and to not allow construction of an overpass across the Indiana Street corridor. First a little backstory. I grew up in Lewisville and Lafayette and lived less than 20 minutes northeast of Rocky Flats throughout my entire youth. My family was very politically engaged often dragging me to city council meetings regarding local environmental issues as a child. However, my parents moved to the Colorado Front Range in the late 1990s. So they were not living in the area during the height of public awareness around Rocky Flats. Therefore, even with parents who were very aware of local environmental issues, it was not until I was 21 years old that I heard the name Rocky Flats for the first time. And it was only after I met someone working at the Rocky Mountain peace and justice center that I learned that I had spent my whole life in the shadow of a highly contaminated former nuclear weapons facility. I was shocked to learn this. And the more I learned the more shocked I became. I immediately went to all my friends who had also grown up in the area and asked them if they had heard about Rocky Flats to which their answer was always no. What's that? Always when I ask people who have moved to this area from out of state whether they have heard about Rocky Flats, they've either never heard of it, or they only know it by name as a wildlife refuge. While I still occasionally meet people who were here in the 70s and 80s, who vividly remember the Rocky Flats plant. I can tell you that by and large young people and people moving here from out of the state do not know about Rocky Flats, the memory of the former nuclear weapons site and the environmental and ethical atrocities that occurred there risk being obscured in public memory and and projects like the Rocky Mountain Greenway only further serve to normalize this highly contaminated site as a safe place to regulate recreate. It is anything but Rocky Flats produced over 70,000 plutonium pits for nuclear bombs between 1952 and 1989. In that time, there were two massive industrial fires that spread hot particles of plutonium across Rocky Flats and surrounding residential areas. Additionally, there were highly questionable practices of storage and disposal of contaminated radioactive material, including 5000 barrels of plutonium waste that corroded and leaked onto the ground in what is known as the 903 pad, or the piled cardboard box storage of toxic plutonium sludge known as concrete. The site was officially shut down in 1989, when an FBI raid found evidence of severe environmental violations after the site was officially shut down. cleanup of the site was estimated by the Department of Energy to cost \$37 billion and take 70 years. But what ended up happening was only a partial cleanup totaling \$7.3 billion and ending in 2005. The result of all of these cut corners and cleanup is that the Rocky Flats area is still highly contaminated with plutonium, amor ECM beryllium, uranium and radioactive lead among others. This is evidenced in the 2006 CAD rods study showing widespread contamination of several radionuclides more most predominantly plutonium and Emery Sam. In this study, contamination was shown to extend past the EPA designated Superfund area and into the windblown area on the south east side, known as the most contaminated part of the site. That's not the central operable unit, this windblown area where the Indiana street overpass of the Rocky Mountain Greenway is, it is where the Indiana street overpass of the recommended greenways pose to be built. Plutonium can remain radioactive for 250,000 years. Plutonium particles can be microscopic, but that does not make them less deadly. We are dealing with the most dangerous material known to man. I am particularly concerned about the widespread presence of tiny respirable particles of plutonium on the site. When a particle of plutonium enters one's body, particularly through inhalation or through an open wound, it is likely to remain in the body

permanently and continuously bombard surrounding cells with radiation. at the cellular level, even a tiny particle of Plutonium can wreak havoc. This radiation can lead to the development of cancer cells, which can lead to many forms of cancer. It can also cause immune deficiencies, birth defects, and many other health problems. These can all develop many years after exposure. But that timeline does not make the issue any less serious. It only makes it harder to establish direct causation. Every year hundreds of 1000s of people hundreds or 1000s of people recreate on Rocky Flats with no knowledge of what occurred there, or the contamination that they are exposing themselves or possibly their children to. The threat to public health, safety and welfare from promoting recreation at Rocky Flats far exceeds any benefit that a new mountain biking trail could offer. Please withdraw from the Rocky Mountain Greenway intergovernmental agreement and halt recreation. Thank you. T

1:49:15 Good evening Council. Hi, my name is Chris Allred from Longmont. And I'm returning here tonight to follow up regarding Rocky Flats. I urge you to please halt construction of the Indiana street overpass and withdrawal from the Rocky Mountain Greenway and providing two studies for your review. **The first is from Dr. Carl Johnson. He's a former executive director of Jefferson County Public Health that study is from 1976.** It is entitled plutonium hazard in respirable dust on the surface of soil. The second study is from Dr. Ketterer and this study is dated in 2020. More than a dozen studies over the past 45 years have shown consistent results. The windblown area downwind of Rocky Flats continues to have plutonium contamination. As you can see on that map, this the same pattern of contamination continues here along Indiana Street. The proposed Indiana street overpass is right in the middle of this contaminated area. What would be Westminster's ongoing responsibility for maintenance of this overpass that's being constructed on contaminated land? What precautions are being taken to protect workers and downwind residents from airborne dispersal of contaminants? What is the long term risk? These are the important questions to consider. Please see that this project is a way to further normalize recreation in a contaminated area. It also normalizes other kinds of construction and a contaminated in a contaminated area. **As I mentioned at the last meeting, this is the area that Dr. Carl Johnson said should never be developed. That's the 1976 study.** The first speaker mentioned something about fear mongering. This is a common attempt to discredit us. This is absolutely not fear mongering. This is called informed decision making. There is a range of science on the subject of Radiation Health Physics. I have provided you with two studies tonight for your consideration. **Others might present you with science from the Department of Energy. But please be mindful that the DOD has a vested interest in protecting and protecting nuclear bomb production. Our interest is protecting public health.** The Department of Energy is the India's the industry that created the contamination. We ask that you have the courage to defend public health don't allow this pattern to go forward that puts our community at risk. This project has actually received significant opposition since its outset, a few precedents to note the town of Superior rejected the project at its outset in 2016. Broomfield withdrew in 2020. When the Westminster City Council passed the IGA in February of 2021. There were no public comments. Later in Boulder and Boulder County, the community was not allowed to speak at the public meeting. The city council and county commissioners were presented with a one sided story to support the project. **One of the reasons they claim to support the project was a safety issue to help people avoid traffic crossing the street into Rocky Flats.** Please don't be confused by this argument. It is not logical to construct a passage into a contaminated area and claim it's on behalf of biker safety. It is a far greater long term risk to public health to build more infrastructure through contaminated land. I'm a member of the alliance for nuclear accountability and we've heard stories from communities on the front lines of contaminated sites around the nation. Just tonight, speaking with members of the community here I've heard more stories about the health impacts of Rocky Flats. Sometimes the stories remain hidden because people don't like to talk about them. So please consider the health of present and future generations who live here families with children who may not know about the contamination at Rocky Flats. Westminster Public Schools is one of seven local school districts who have committed not to

allow field trips at Rocky Flats. Please join our local school districts and neighboring governments and withdrawal from the Rocky Mountain Greenway. Thank you. Thank you.

2:07:23 Alvin Mites

I've wanted to say a little bit about Rocky Flats. It's an ongoing debate about how safe it is. There's a lot of there's a lot of strong emotions, there's a lot of there's a lot of desire to have a lot of access, because it really is a beautiful area. It's easy to forget what took place there throughout the last century. The second half of last century 2005 We had a massive cleanup largest largest Superfund site yet Correct? Yeah, completed by the EPA. It was also it was also very well underfunded. The soil samples that have been taking place back in 2019, we're done at two we're done at samples, we've done two inches, any kind of construction there any kind of development is gonna go down, it's gonna go down much further ruffle a lot of rough off a lot of dust, and no, nothing has been done to be able to check what is that? What has actually gone down. What's gonna come up, if you start digging in, what's going to what's going to change, I would encourage you please, at least wait until some some further analysis has been completed. What if once the development is in, it's not going to go away, that means a lot more people are going to are going to be there putting them at unknown risks for generations to come. My kids, I don't want them there. The schools in Westminster, they're not allowed to go there. There's a reason for that. It's a while it might not be the most popular thing. There is. There's no risk in waiting to be able to say what could happen. And there's a ton of risk for generations that have not even been born yet and will not be born yet for hundreds of years. That will be ongoing.

2:09:31 Thank you Mayor McNally members of the council. Good to be here. I'm Randy Stafford. I'm a resident of Ken Carl in the southern metro area. **I applied and was selected to the Jefferson Parkway Advisory Committee back in 2017.** I think it was and that's a committee that was established by the Jefferson Parkway public Highway Authority Board of Directors to advise the board from a citizens perspective on the project. And my reason for applying was to I have an opportunity to advise the board that I didn't think it was safe to disturb the soil along Indiana Street by digging it up with Earthmovers to build the parkway. For my work on the committee, I conducted extensive research into all of the past soil studies that have been done at Rocky Flats and all of the past epidemiological studies of the population surrounding Rocky Flats. And I synthesized my my findings of these studies into a position paper for my peers on the Jefferson Parkway Advisory Committee. That position paper is still linked from the Justice Jefferson Parkway public highway authority website. And that position paper eventually became my chapter in this book, which I just gave you all a copy of this is the second book by Kristin Iverson about Rocky Flats. It has chapters by Dr. Michael Ketterer, who David Wood alluded to earlier. He's a world renowned radionuclides soil chemist who has studied radioactive sites all over the world. It has a chapter by Dr. Mark Johnson, who was the former Jefferson County Public Health Department Director. It has a chapter by Louisa was at Roselle, who was an attorney in the Cook versus Rockwell lawsuit that paid the citizens of Arvada damages for trespass of plutonium onto their property. And has a chapter by Jon Lipsky who commented earlier tonight. So please read this book. And I think you'll find information in there that will make you think the, there have been plenty of studies of plutonium in the soil surrounding Rocky Flats, including the site of the Indiana street trail crossing that you're contemplating building for the Greenway. And practically every time there's a study the existence of Rocky Flats, **specific plutonium is confirmed at levels representing hundreds or 1000s of times background radiation, and representing multiples of the allowed cleanup limit,** which didn't remediate the Refuge land, by the way. So there's no debate over the presence of the plutonium. It's there. What the debate is over is the impact on public health. And some studies find greater incidence of cancer closer to Rocky Flats, than farther away, and a couple of other studies have found the opposite conclusion. **But the all of the safety determinations about the site are ultimately based on modeling and simulation software called res rad residual radiation. It's a closed source program that is**



**maintained by Argonne National Labs.** And it is used to determine the estimated excess cancer risk excess number of cancer cases in a population given some parameters about exposure and dosage. And the output of RESRAD is demonstrably wrong. **In the neighborhood of five parks, which is at the northeast corner of 86. In Indiana, there have been two cases of cardiac angiosarcoma.** These have been in the news one of the most fatal and that's a neighborhood of some 1600 residents. So that's one excess case of cardiac angiosarcoma per 800. Population, res rad predicted one per 10,000 population. So its output is off by a couple of orders of magnitude. If we want to talk about science, **I have a degree in applied mathematics despite what David Wood said I have further graduate education in computer science** and have spent my career in enterprise software working for Oracle the last 17 years. When CDPHE evaluated the when they when they announced their plan for evaluating the safety of constructing the Jefferson Parkway. I received a copy of it and I proposed that they test. Why don't they set up a tent with some big fans in it and start blowing some soil around while they move bulldozers through there and have some air monitors in there to see if plutonium particles are being redistributed into the wind. You can do the same thing for the Greenway trail crossing over Indiana street. But I'd like to start wrapping up with with an anecdote from my uncle. It looks like I'm running out of time off to skip the anecdote. He spent his career in fish and wildlife and he wanted he said he thinks places like Rocky Flats should be closed fenced patrolled in the sign so the public knows what went on there. I urge you to withdraw from the Greenway trail project. Thank you

Hi, my name is Greg Yesus. And I'm a resident of Westminster. I'm a Colorado native. I grew up and still live in the shadow of Rocky Flats, a resident of Westminster. I'm going to call on the city council here to help career development of and withdraw from the Rocky Mountain Greenway project. The construction area of that project is located on an unmediated portion of the former Superfund site, right. It's it's where they found that hotpot hot particle back in 2019, which was a plutonium 239 manmade particle. I grew up I went to Pomona High School, and I grew up seeing a multitude of my classmates be diagnosed with and die from incredibly rare cancers. I lost my father to a rare cancer. Four people on our block. Two additional people after that we watch and funny people I went to high school with watched our family members suffer the same fate. We live in the areas that are still receiving settlements from past litigation regarding contamination. Those are checks that went out after the Dow cleanup, which was failed, which had failed, or neighborhoods are in Westminster, and many in Arvada. And those were considered far downwind from Rocky Flats, but obviously not far enough. Full Body burdens a book that should be required reading for any city council member, please, please pick up that book. The impact and the damage of Rocky Flats will forever be here. And at least for another 12,000 years or so. Right now these known risks are being ignored again, if the Greenway is desired, please find another location to connect these trails or use existing trails and pathways. I know that means going back to the drawing board, but it's really important that you avoid that that area of land. Please withdraw from project until a new location for the pathways can be found one that will not put our public health at risk. Thank you

Hi, my name is Sondra or yours in MASTERSON. I'm calling as a resident on Westminster I request that city council refrains from disturbing any land associated with the Rocky Mountain Greenway project. The proposed construction area for the RMG project is located on an unmediated portion of the former Superfund site. This is the same location that the hot particle was found in 2019. identified as a weapons grade plutonium 239 manmade particle. Please don't ignore these known risks that can affect our health. If the Greenway is desired, please find another location to connect these trails or use existing trails and pathways. Please withdraw from the project until a new location for the pathways can be found one that will not put our public health at risk. I appreciate your time. Thank you.