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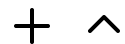


(/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/?is=detail_author)

David Wood (/profile/0

3 Jun 19 (/p/2ArkeqwrC

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New data on radiation in Rocky Flats Refuge (soil and directly measured recently).

Dear neighbors,



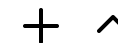
To those of you who don't know me: I set up and administer the web site rockyflatsneighbors.org (<http://rockyflatsneighbors.org>), devoted to the science behind whether the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge is safe. (Truth in advertising: based on lots of sources of information I believe it *is*.)

To those of you who participated in last summer's poll of attitudes about the Refuge: thank you once again. Among the most common complaints concerned the perceived absence of "good" (that is, non-DOE, for some people) information about Refuge soil radioactivity. Last year I spent a lot of time trying to find data that everyone would trust. I know and trust the DOE data, but I stumbled a few months ago on non-DOE very comprehensive soil data from NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology, formerly the National Bureau of Standards, administered by the Department of the Interior). The significance of the "soil standard" they prepared is that it is comprehensive: it included a fairly large number of radioisotopes in Refuge soil. This data makes clear that plutonium and americium isotopes (the ones from the Rocky Flats plant) constitute not more than 3% of total soil radioactivity. (What they measured for these is quite consistent with the DOE data but is entirely independent.) The rest is from naturally occurring radioisotopes (with some global fallout thrown in). The same is presumably also true of windblown dust. The NIST documents also provide an estimate of how often "hot particles" occur in Refuge soil (at least the parts from which the samples were taken in 1978). A careful report is at

<https://rockyflatsneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/NatSoilRad.pdf>
(<https://rockyflatsneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/NatSoilRad.pdf>)

On a second front, I recently built and deployed a bGeigie Nano, a compact geotagging and logging Geiger-Muller counter. This is the principal piece of hardware used by the international SAFecast project (set up in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster) to provide reliable open and freely available, well calibrated non-governmental information to the public. Check out <http://safecast.org/tilemap/> (<http://safecast.org/tilemap/>) for the scope of their work.

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In April I walked all of the trails currently open in the Refuge. The results are in the document <https://rockyflatsneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/OptInsideRF.pdf> (<https://rockyflatsneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/OptInsideRF.pdf>)

The conclusions: (i) The measured "ambient dose equivalent [radiation] rate" (ADER) is 0.14 microSv per hour. For perspective: this is entirely consistent with existing data for total background radiation (including both soil radioactivity and cosmic rays) along the Front Range, and (ii) it varies by no more than about 2% from place to place along the trails. I could find no "hot spots".

I hope that this data will answer many questions those living around Rocky Flats may have.

I have also recently become a Safecast volunteer, which means that I am willing to drive, bicycle, or walk around areas where a group of people (please, not private individuals) suspect there is an ambient radiation issue. This data may end up (once vetted and approved) on the Safecast map mentioned above. Although I am politically active on behalf of the Refuge, the volunteer role is non-political and strictly data-based. Please note: Geiger-Muller counters are very useful to measure ambient radiation, can readily detect surface contamination, but provide no radioisotope-specific information. For example: plutonium isotopes in soil (which contribute less than 2% of total soil radioactivity around Rocky Flats anyway) would require specialized equipment to identify. A recent spill of radioactive waste, by contrast, would probably be readily detected.

DMW



rockyflatsneigh... > (<https://rockyflatsneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/NatSoilRad.pdf>)

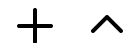
31



Reactions

- 5
- 161
- 0
- 0

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(/profile/01FJ434QRr9pXdPh9/?is=feed_commenter)

Kevin Dahl (/profile/01FJ434QRr9pXdPh9/?is=detail_)

This is excellent information that I'll be reviewing over the next few days - thank you for taking the time to record, analyze, and interpret data that the community needs access to from a non-.gov entity.

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(/profile/01mpRfkz87cxShHnw/?is=feed_commenter)

Aaron Krueger (/profile/01mpRfkz87cxShHnw/?is=de)

Thank you. I appreciate the independent effort to investigate the issue. I too will be curious to follow up on the links you provide.

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(/profile/012qwZL7qyFHLPRhy/?is=feed_commenter)

Scott Walsh (/profile/012qwZL7qyFHLPRhy/?is=detail_)

Thank you for providing informed data based information, free of emotional politically charged influence.

I'm a retired Naval Officer and when I moved here I just spoke to some of the old Navy Nuke Officers (Submarine guys) that were involved in the clean-up; they told me it was safe and not to worry so I don't ;)

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(/profile/01w9RJLrft6pN4d_m/?is=feed_commenter)

Akbar Khan (/profile/01w9RJLrft6pN4d_m/?is=detail_)

Thank you for sharing this information!

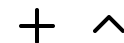
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Reina Bernfeld (/profile/01FRmD2Qt5bXXT245/?is=)

Thank you for sharing the informatio, and being an active, non-gov volunteer!

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is=feed_commenter) **Share**



Jennifer Angliss (/profile/01PpB6xCx333Tm3kk/?is=

(/profile/01PpB6xCx333Tm3kk/?
is=feed_commenter) Thank you so much for doing this!
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Sarah Lincoln (/profile/01NDd6SdTn_jj5M69/?is=det

(/profile/01NDd6SdTn_jj5M69/?
is=feed_commenter) This is awesome! Thank you!
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Jane F. (/profile/017fHq43WrJLXnGP_/?is=detail_cor

(/profile/017fHq43WrJLXnGP_/?
is=feed_commenter) Thanks! Also, are you familiar with the Rocky Flats
Stewardship Council? I have been a member for
years and they send ongoing testing results to
members. Anyone can join. Contact Dave
Abelson at dabelson@rockyflatssc.org
(mailto:dabelson@rockyflatssc.org)
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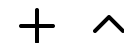
john varndell (/profile/012H7W-7jwQcm8P8q/?is=detail_comme

(/profile/012H7W-
7jwQcm8P8q/?
is=feed_commenter) Sounds reassuring and useful.
What depth of soil do you expect that your data measures?
Do you have thoughts on construction disturbances such as
highway construction along indiana? Know of any sampling
downwind in sediments from standley lake?
By the way, i am also not concerned and bought in candelas.
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Igor Bekman (/profile/01N44pStNRtcRYyCW/?is=det

(/profile/01N44pStNRtcRYyCW/?
is=feed_commenter) Thanks so much for this data. I'm enjoying my
home in Candelas as it is but it's good to
continually get good news. I do have a question
for you. Since alpha radiation is harder to detect
than gamma, is the device you have certified in
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alpha radiation detection? Just a point of curiosity is that this topic will always be of interest.



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Judy Perez (/profile/01XSZ3zPzXr7cF-bx/?is=detail_comn)

(/profile/01XSZ3zPzXr7cF-bx/?is=feed_commenter) Thank you for sharing and volunteering your time to this. After watching Chernobyl, I'm not concerned at all.

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Km Christensen (/profile/01nWjP5TL5PqcxJwr/?is=de)

(/profile/01nWjP5TL5PqcxJwr/?is=feed_commenter) Fantastic web site and source of independent information. Thank you for your service to our community!

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Janet Coon (/profile/014DPLD-Y5N5RdB55/?is=detail_comment)

(/profile/014DPLD-Y5N5RdB55/?is=feed_commenter) Thanks David for the factual update. I have wondered about the levels of radioactive contamination from the former Rocky Flats Plant, Nuclear Weapons Production Facility. The map by Sandra Bornstein outlining the risk assessment of neighbors near Rocky Flats, shows my neighborhood (Standley Lake) in a 'medium green zone' regarding Plutonium levels. Appreciate you shedding more light on this.

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Jeanette Tolman (/profile/01kH4YQjdK7WmMHwF/)

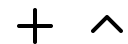
(/profile/01kH4YQjdK7WmMHwF/?is=feed_commenter) You have definitely fine above and beyond in researching this very concerning issue. Thank you for your dedication to this community.

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Brent Ballard (/profile/01fXx5hBMBjyhStRp/?is=detail.

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(/profile/01fXx5hBMBjyhStRp/?is=feed_commenter)

Thanks very much for all your work on this, David. I'm a local realtor and am often asked about this issue. I appreciate the good information and tools I can pass along to my clients. Thanks again!

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(/profile/01PfJH27Mm2zzXkSY/?is=feed_commenter)

Ralph Anhold (/profile/01PfJH27Mm2zzXkSY/?is=de

As a former employee at Rocky Flats, I truly appreciate your time and effort to determine actual conditions. While employed, I read a few of the detailed sampling reports; and, I was highly confident that the RFP community kept containment intact.

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(/profile/01hHmB3scCSsby8n6/?is=feed_commenter)

Anne Sterrett (/profile/01hHmB3scCSsby8n6/?is=d

Thank you so much for doing the research and sharing it with us!

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(/profile/01p9T8DjN3db2PN-x/?is=feed_commenter)

Brittany Lane (/profile/01p9T8DjN3db2PN-x/?is=detail_

Thank you for your thoughtful and comprehensive look at this, David!

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(/profile/01qcQXwP-kRf7mbXN/?is=feed_commenter)

Renee Phillips (/profile/01qcQXwP-kRf7mbXN/?is=detail_comm

I'm really thankful to people like you -for having the skills and being willing to share on a non-political level. Many many thanks!

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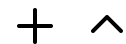
(/profile/01c-

Cynthia Pacello (/profile/01c-qSB_HyhPz-gxp/?is=detail_comm

Thank you David for this extensive research and information! So, in your expert opinion, is it safe to build the continuation of the Parkway as planned?



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