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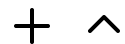


(/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/?is=detail_author)

David Wood (/profile/0

6 Nov 22 (/p/kpHNdGC

Chats



Recollections of former Rocky Flats employees



It's become clear to me that there are plenty of former Rocky Flats employees reading and posting to NextDoor communities. Every so often a flurry of misinformation about Rocky Flats occurs, and the experiences and recollections of former workers would be extremely valuable in clarifying and debunking the parts concerning how the plant was run.

I am a retired physics professor living in Candelas, and author of the website rockyflatsneighbors.org (<http://rockyflatsneighbors.org>) [NOT .com].

Transparency: I am not sympathetic to several anti-nuclear groups that oppose usage of the Refuge. The site is very much focussed on what has been measured and only very slightly concerned with history. But you will discover that, although I skimmed Kirsten Iversen's Full Body Burden, I also have read Farrel Hobb's 'An Insider's View of Rocky Flats' twice. His account has the ring of truth to someone (me) who worked at another federal lab from 1982-1989 and experienced visits by DOE 'Tiger Teams'. Before he died he endorsed my website.

Please contact me at wooddmarv@gmail.com (<mailto:wooddmarv@gmail.com>), or by NextDoor messaging, if you would be willing to be contacted by me, and possible even interviewed. I would love to hear your recollections about how the plant was run. I will certainly respect complete anonymity when requested. --David Wood, Candelas

50



Reactions

- 62
- 1
- 6
- 6
- 2
- 1

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Rebecca Niemeier (/profile/017BWHr7syk2G2QJs/?is=feed_commenter)

Great website!
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(/profile/012HQ2xYCCYL_Y6mm/?is=feed_commenter)

Jen Zee (/profile/012HQ2xYCCYL_Y6mm/?is=feed_commenter)

Rebecca (/profile/017BWHr7syk2G2QJs/)

If you believe yearly dental x rays are remotely comparable to living atop a plutonium superfund site, that is incredibly terrifying. Yikes.

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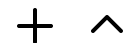


(/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/?is=feed_commenter)

David Wood (/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/?is=feed_commenter)

Jen Zee--You're right--they are not comparable. If you go through careful calculations using the International Commission on Radiological Projection 'dose coefficients' for Pu dust inhalation and ingestion, using the measured amounts of Pu AND of PuO2 'hot particles' as measured by Michael Ketterer, you'd discover that 50 years worth of Pu-derived radiation doses are comparable to eating 20 bananas or so, and far LESS than a dental X-ray. What fraction of soil radioactivity is contributed by Pu? Tell me about the gamma ray spectrum of Pu. Tell me how may picoCuries per gram of soil is contributed by hot particles measured on the eastern boundary. How does this compare with background radiation along the Front Range? What? You don't know these things? Then educate yourself before criticizing. This is why social media

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is a cesspool of misinformation--no pride in passing on reliable information, no sense of responsibility for its impact. So much easier to echo hearsay from people who believe the way you do--no pesky math, reading documents, identifying reliable sources, etc. Ain't the Web grand?

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Brett Hall (/profile/01gMFgLXS29YkS5qP/?is=detail_...)

(/profile/01gMFgLXS29YkS5qP/?is=feed_commenter) Just imagine what we would know if the Grand Jury files weren't sealed and 30 some boxes of evidence had not gone "missing"....

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David Wood (/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/...)

(/profile/01sQjzCnCCFY9LDms/?is=feed_commenter) If you focus on what has been *measured* rather than history, great clarity emerges about safety.

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Mary Sue Preissner (/profile/01QwP_NyYBwkTF_Xk/...)

(/profile/01QwP_NyYBwkTF_Xk/?is=feed_commenter) It is the first person narratives (from you who worked there) that will provide a rounded picture of the history and experiences there. You are a part of history, Please keep it alive and accurate with your remembrances.

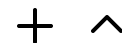
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TJ Martinez (/profile/01zzdDFT5jShtnFMY/?is=detail_...)

(/profile/01zzdDFT5jShtnFMY/?is=feed_commenter) I'm going to pass this along to my Dad. He worked at rocky flats for like **15-20** years until it closed down. He worked in all the hot areas too very

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interesting to hear the stories. I remember even going to a take your child to work day, where I put my hands in this box with gloves. I guess it's how they handle radiation, or something.

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(/profile/01c48_G_TnsP-yQXJ?is=feed_commenter)

Michelle Johnston (/profile/01c48_G_TnsP-yQXJ?is=)

TJ (/profile/01zzdDFT5jShtnFMY/) oh my gosh yes! I remember take your child to work day too and sticking my hands into the long yellow thick heavy gloves into the plexiglass looking box!!

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(/profile/015LHn7ZjXJ-47p9Y?is=feed_commenter)

Michael Swaisgood (/profile/015LHn7ZjXJ-47p9Y?is=)

TJ Martinez (/profile/01zzdDFT5jShtnFMY/) I also remember child at work day, my dad was a firefighter out there fought the fire on mothers day in 1969. I would go out to the firehouse alot.

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(/profile/01-3XDTnMGyggXRkz/?is=feed_commenter)

Dale Simpson (/profile/01-3XDTnMGyggXRkz/?is=detail_comme)

I thank you for taking this opportunity to embarrass yourself in public. There's literally zero of us here to "fluff" your decision to live in the highest-alpha radiation-contaminated urban environment in the planet. (Take that Fukishma!)

What are you seeking David? Reassurance that the cold war veterans really cared about their job and gave it their best, every day? Or, are you also interested in the now declassified, fully documented history of how the Plant poisoned our communities (Arvada/Broomfield/Westminster).

May we discuss the '57 or '69 fires...or what about the 80s glovebox explosion where the plant manager and my own father (the EPA-Compliance manager for the plant) truly

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thought the explosion had nuked Arvada, and each did absolutely jack about it?



Or, hey, lets discuss how Rocky Flats managed to plant supersized radioactive particles in our region, a feat only Chernobyl has elsewhere accomplished?

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(/profile/01cWFy7T8YWjZwbRY/?is=feed_commenter)

Amanda Lynn (/profile/01cWFy7T8YWjZwbF

Dale Simpson I've heard these same stories, and more. Some even about watching files/documents being destroyed from a family member who worked there during the 2nd fire until they closed.

In fact, when Leyden Rock was new my family looked at the models (really just for fun) & the same family member begged us to not ever consider living there for fear of what might turn up in our yard, or a neighbors. Rumor has it a map exists of places where drums were buried. It was supposed to be destroyed but someone didn't follow directions well. 🙄

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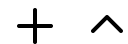
(/profile/01_4H9RCTCrS4Z6cJ/?is=feed_commenter)

Linda Olson (/profile/01_4H9RCTCrS4Z6cJ/?is=detai

Here's a fascinating YouTube video called "Rocky Flats Right to Know presents: Dr. Mark Johnson, MD" who is the Exec Director of Jefferson Health Dept

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(/profile/01RFKPS5N3Yx72y4m/?is=feed_commenter)

Courtney W. (/profile/01RFKPS5N3Yx72y4m/?is=de

I recommend reading A Citizen's Guide To Rocky Flats
<https://www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org/citizens-guide-to-rocky-flats>
(<https://www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org/citizens-guide-to-rocky-flats>)

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Lee Moseley (/profile/012JydrCHgz96yk_3/?is

Quinn W. Because THAT's not a biased organization whose sole intent is "to RID the PLANET of ALL Nuclear Weapons" and believes/states the US "stopped making nuclear bombs n 1992" (nice try, but NO), they just moved the operations and upgraded older weapons (I know, because I worked on them).

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(/profile/01XzXjT6Hh-RcB7x3/?is=feed_commenter)

Shannon Block (/profile/01XzXjT6Hh-RcB7x3/?is=detail_comme

The department of labor has a white card for those that were exposed to nuclear radiation. One person that I worked with on this issue that was at the plant, showed up the next day and the building was just missing.

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Paul J. (/profile/01NSfWYgm7jttXqGp/?is=detail_com

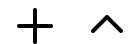
It's more fun to hear the stories about aliens buried in the basements and the two headed deer.

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Paul J. (/profile/01NSfWYgm7jttXqGp/?is=detail_com

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(/profile/01NSfWYgm7jttXqGp/?is=feed_commenter)

This is all very ironic. For years, many Rocky Flats Workers, Cold War Veterans, were shunned, ridiculed and villified just for their choice of employment. Some people would not communicate with them, and some would avoid them like the plague. Afraid of getting plutonium cooties.

Now today, you want to hear their story. I've a feeling many won't entertain your request.

Trying to paint a picture you didn't live, is very difficult. If not impossible. I've a feeling former Rocky Flats Employees will unanimously agree on this, a brand new housing development was built right on the boundary line of a buffer zone that was a former Nuclear Weapons Manufacturing Facility/Superfund Site. When the wind blows, Candelas sucks.

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(/profile/01XMXT2hRKD6sTdPt/?is=feed_commenter)

Mary Mattson (/profile/01XMXT2hRKD6sTdPt/?is=de

Yes I am so glad that more science people are involved as I am married to a long time Flats worker and was involved myself in the D and D. There is so much hysteria. I even know someone who must close their car windows as they go down 93

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(/profile/012JydrCHgz96yk_3/?is=feed_commenter)

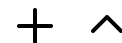
Lee Moseley (/profile/012JydrCHgz96yk_3/?is

Mary Mattson

(/profile/01XMXT2hRKD6sTdPt/)

D and D, Dungeons and Dragons? LOL Hysteria (Def Leopard rules)! There is valid reason to be concerned, but not hysteria.

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Just leave it buried and don't excavate. But greedy profiteers will do what they do and claim NO responsibility...

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(/profile/01NSfWYgm7jttXqGp/?is=feed_commenter)

Paul J. (/profile/01NSfWYgm7jttXqGp/?is=detail_com

Now you know why those black helicopters fly overhead.

Operation Pu Airborne.

They just came out with a new vaccine.

RF22.

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(/profile/01kDwYMYrhzD73bf6/?is=feed_commenter)

John Uhles (/profile/01kDwYMYrhzD73bf6/?is=detail

Great post, David. It's hard to know which side to land on.

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(/profile/01w4CJByDMn-sLYcz/?is=feed_commenter)

Lee Werner (/profile/01w4CJByDMn-sLYcz/?is=detail_comm

I've heard some crazy stories from a ex chemist they're

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(/profile/01DxRX6XRWSjQc774/?is=feed_commenter)

david vanhorn (/profile/01DxRX6XRWSjQc774/?is=d

FWIW I have a gamma spectrometer if someone has something that might need a look.

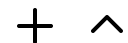
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(/profile/01WWFk-

Kim Grice (/profile/01WWFk-pLkGh92LzT/?is=detail_commenter

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pLkGh92LzT/?
is=feed_commenter)



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Thought you still might want to know more. As a 'Rocky Flats Radical Protester' 1984-93; We were very informed about the dangers from that Nuclear Weapons Facility. Here are just some of the info flyers I produced.

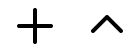


(/profile/01_MGk_czWDk6CgBs/?
is=feed_commenter)

Dennis Ott (/profile/01_MGk_czWDk6CgBs/?is=det

David: I was recruited by Rockwell International in 1981. Memos from Ronald Reagan were on my desk regularly. My main responsibilities were engineering design and manufacturing of nuclear war heads. There were three separate manufacturing areas at Rocky Flats known as the 700 complex (Plutonium operations), 400 complex (Beryllium and depleted uranium operations), and 800 complex (stainless steel reservoirs). Rocky Flats had the largest inventory of weapons grade plutonium (code name Wind and Trunk: everything had code names in those days and I know many of them) in the entire nuclear weapons complex that included Y12 in Oakridge Tennessee. What you need to understand is that Rocky Flats had all the responsibility for producing fissile weapons while Oakridge produced America's fusion devices. If you wish know anything about the design, manufacturing or certification of processes and materials you will never meet anyone like me. I was not only an Authorized Classifier, but I was the Lead Engineer for all Category 2 software in the entire Nuclear Weapons Complex throughout America. This meant that my signature was required for all weapons hardware put in America's War Reserve. I had final approval of all analytic geometry used in Computer Aided

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Design and Manufacturing. And, yes: I have held piece parts and final assemblies in my hands. When I am gone, there will be pieces of history gone forever.



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Lee Moseley (/profile/012JydrCHgz96yk_3/?is=feed_commenter)

Dennis Ott

(/profile/01_MGk_czWDk6CgBs/)

I'm pretty sure I remember seeing your name on documents and you may have seen mine too (I wrote and documented a lot and developed a lot of WR/MQ software).

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(/profile/01Nm9QpyxDKZPZw24/?is=feed_commenter)

Molly Cruz (/profile/01Nm9QpyxDKZPZw24/?is=feed_commenter)

So I was absolutely correct. Why would anyone think this is ok or now a suitable are for anyone to reside.

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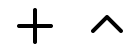
(/profile/01TTmPY_KCDQ6SXhJ/?is=feed_commenter)

David Sena (/profile/01TTmPY_KCDQ6SXhJ/?is=feed_commenter)

Most of my family worked and retired from the flats. The last my grandma being 93 years old as well as my uncle my step grandfather my step dad my cousin my aunt and so on. I will tell you it offends me when people start in on the flats. The only person that has passed was my step granddad from Parkinson which was not from the beryllium salts but was hereditary in his family. Again my grandmother who worked her whole life there is 93 years old.

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(/profile/01TTmPY_KCDQ6SXhJ/?
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David Sena (/profile/01TTmPY_KCDQ6SXhJ/?is=del



Matter of fact I just went to breakfast with her at
the dav for benefits "cold War patriots" I think
and about 50 elderly there looked to be in pretty
good health.

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