

Grants

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Department of Energy Awards \$300,000 Block Grant to the Rocky Flats Community Reuse Organization

Money Will Be Used To Develop Comprehensive Refuge Plan for Rocky Flats

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments. A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

This grant will enable the community reuse organization (CRO) to continue to play a critical role in working with the Energy Department on the development of a comprehensive refuge plan for Rocky Flats, review cleanup and closure documents to ensure that they meet long-term community interests and objectives, and other related issues to help define a successful community transition strategy. The Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments is the recognized CRO for the department's Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and other community reuse organizations around the country, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

The Rocky Flats site is scheduled to close in December 2006. However, site closure remains dependent on maintaining a skilled, knowledgeable, and committed workforce, and the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments engages in a broad range of workforce issues with necessary agencies, groups, firms, and elected officials to ensure that a skilled work force is maintained through closure. Once cleanup has been completed, the site will become the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments continues to focus on cleanup and closure issues to ensure the cleanup meets community expectations.