

## **Project Overview**

The Rocky Flats Historical Public Exposures Studies involved nine years of research including identification and assessment of past releases of radioactive materials and chemicals from the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant, located northwest of Denver, Colorado. The studies focused on estimating increased cancer risk to residents living or working in surrounding communities during the plant's operation from 1952 to 1989. The studies addressed only past releases that were carried off-site and led to exposure of the public and did not include possible releases after production ceased in 1989. On-site releases, worker exposure and worker health effects are addressed in other studies.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment administered the Historical Public Exposures Studies. Oversight was provided by a 12-member Health Advisory Panel appointed in 1990 by former Governor Roy Romer.

This independent panel made up of scientists, physicians, health officials, local officials and members of the public was charged with overseeing research that focused on past emissions from Rocky Flats.

The studies were divided into two phases. Phase I of the Historical Public Exposures Studies (1990 to 1994) was conducted by the contractor ChemRisk, a division of McLaren/ Hart Environmental Engineering. Radiological Assessments Corporation (RAC) conducted Phase II (1992 to 1999).