

November 2016

Dear Colorado Health Professional,

This letter is to inform you, as a Colorado Medical Professional, of certain environmental factors that may negatively impact populations you treat. The Rocky Flats Plant was a nuclear weapons production facility in operation from 1952-1992 located near Arvada, Colorado, 16 miles northwest of Denver. During production, the plant manufactured 70,000 plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons. In 1989, the plant was raided by the FBI for environmental crimes and was declared a Superfund clean-up site.

Workers at the former nuclear weapons facility have suffered negative health problems due to working in a contaminated environment. As a result, they are offered medical monitoring and compensation. Dating back to the 1970's, local communities have reported high incidences of cancers, autoimmune diseases, cardiac problems and other medical issues. A local resident, and now college professor, Kristen Iversen, published *Full Body Burden, Growing up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats*. Kristen has received hundreds of letters from ill former residents. In 2015 we initiated a community organization to document these letters and other stories of illnesses in former residents in a quantifiable way.

Rocky Flats Downwinders is a community organization that developed through common concern about the high rate of illness suffered by former residents who lived near the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Currently, we are working with Metropolitan State University's Integrative Health Program to distribute a health/illness survey. As members of the community begin to recount their stories, the common thread holding them together is personal illness or illness or death of family members and friends.

As a medical professional treating Colorado residents, it is your ethical responsibility to be informed about Rocky Flats and therefore to be knowledgeable about radiation induced illnesses. Residents who lived nearest the plant, especially those who were children during production years, were most vulnerable to iodizing radiation exposure. As a result, these Rocky Flats Downwinders are now at increased risk for certain diseases and cancers.

Please visit www.rockyflatsdownwinders.com for more about our community organization, our goals, and the health survey which is currently being distributed by Metropolitan State University of Denver. If you want to be listed on our website as a Rocky Flats Aware Professional, please contact us at 303-681-1364 or email Tiffany@rockyflatsdownwinders.com to discuss how you can help.

Tiffany Hansen

Rocky Flats Downwinder Co-Founder

