

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2019

Deputy Secretary Eric D. Hargan
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Decision of Three-Person HHS Panel on Special Exposure Cohort Petition 192 for the Rocky Flats Plant under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000

Dear Deputy Secretary Hargan:

We write regarding a recent decision affecting former nuclear weapons workers at Rocky Flats in Jefferson County, Colorado. We understand the three-person Health and Human Services panel reviewed the petitioners' challenge and has decided to uphold the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) decision to not add a class of Rocky Flats workers to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC). We respectfully request a review of this decision.

The petitioners, Terrie Barrie and Charles Saunders, filed SEC Petition 192 to add a class of Rocky Flats workers who were present on the former nuclear weapons production facility from January 1, 1984 through December 31, 2005. This filing was in response to a November 8, 2017 decision by NIOSH not to add this class of employees to the SEC. Plutonium pit production ended in 1989 but workers who were on site post-production were still exposed to plutonium during their monitoring and remediation work.

Over 600,000 Americans worked on our nation's nuclear weapons program in the 20th Century, many located at the former Rocky Flats Plant. It is important we work to care for all these patriots as they develop cancers and illnesses related to their service to our country.

We appreciate the highly qualified individuals selected to serve on this panel and the time spent reviewing the petitioners request. We are also aware of a historic pattern of limited or inadequate documentation related to worker exposure at Rocky Flats. We believe there may be a case for overturning NIOSH's decision and adding this class of Rocky Flats workers to the SEC.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this petition. Please do not hesitate to contact Tia Bogeljic in Representative Perlmutter's office or Adzua Agyapon in Senator Bennet's office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress