



Contact: Jennifer Thompson, 303-966-6285

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### **HIGH-RISK RESIDUES SAFELY PROCESSED FOR DISPOSAL**

**GOLDEN, Colo., August 2, 1999 – Rocky Flats workers have successfully concluded stabilization of plutonium-laden salt residues – marking a key accomplishment for an important program that earlier had encountered unexpected complications and delays.**

**The completion of high-risk salt residue stabilization fulfills a Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Milestone. If work continues at its current pace, the plutonium residue program will meet planned performance targets by the end of September. In October 1998 residue efforts were reported to be significantly lagging the plant closure calendar.**

**Ken Ferrera, Kaiser-Hill residue program manager, attributed the accomplishments to a dedicated work force as well as new management strategies for the cleanup project.**

**“We initiated a number of process improvements which simply found better and faster ways to accomplish the same work,” said Ferrera. “But in the final analysis, this could not have been done without the hourly and technical work force on the floor. They provided so many of the ideas for increased efficiency and they were there everyday to get the job done safely, completely and on time.”**

**Originally, 16,000 kilograms of salt residues were believed to contain high-risk levels of plutonium. Through characterization, some 14,000 kilograms were proven to be low-risk, thus requiring no treatment prior to disposal. Finishing the stabilization of the remaining 2,000 kilograms of high-risk salt residues means all of those residues are ready for eventual shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico.**

**“Residues” encompass a number of materials that were contaminated with plutonium as part of routine nuclear weapons production activities at the plant. Under a new, accelerated schedule, the site expects to complete its entire residue program as early as 2002 – a full two years ahead of previous schedules.**

**The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site is a DOE-owned Superfund cleanup site operated by Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C., under a performance-based integrated management contract. The Rocky Flats mission includes special nuclear material stabilization; decontamination, deactivation and decommissioning; waste management; environmental cleanup; and site closure.**

