

August 20, 2019

Dear community members,

We want to share some important health-related information with you about the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility, our initial assessment of what it means, what we still do not know, and what we are doing to learn more. We are committed to transparency and timely communication with the public.

On Friday, the Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority alerted us about a soil sample with an elevated level of plutonium in the Parkway Authority's right of way just west of Indiana Street. The sample location was part of the former Rocky Flats buffer. The laboratory returned a result of 264 pCi/g of plutonium in that soil sample. The Parkway Authority's laboratory then tested another portion of the same raw soil sample. The reading on the second sample was 1.5 pCi/g of plutonium, within the range of anticipated levels. The elevated sample is anomalous and requires further investigation. We are awaiting details regarding the precise location where the sample was taken, along with other technical data about sampling and testing methods.

While we continue to process the data and seek more, we want to share what we know and do not know at this point. Attached is the email the department received from Bill Ray, director of the Parkway Authority, alerting us to the sample result, along with an overview of the Parkway Authority's sampling efforts. The 264 pCi/g sample is above the 50 pCi/g cleanup standard for Rocky Flats that was set to protect public health with a margin of safety. Based on the information we have so far, our state experts and toxicologists do not believe there is an immediate public health threat. We do believe that further sampling and analysis is needed to assess what this elevated sample may mean for long-term risks, and whether it is an isolated instance, or a sign of a wider area of relatively high contamination. We are taking the sample result seriously because it is much higher than previous samples in the vicinity and higher than the cleanup standard. Again, we are seeking additional data, and will review it as it becomes available to determine how to proceed in a way that protects public health and the environment.

This sample is part of a larger sampling program that the Parkway Authority is still undertaking. The Parkway has collected approximately 250 soil samples, many of which are still being analyzed by the laboratory. The Parkway Authority will share that data with the department, and the department will share it with the community, as it becomes available in the upcoming weeks and months.

As you may be aware, in June, after listening to many members of the community, the department sent the Parkway Authority a guidance letter on regulatory requirements, precautions, and "best practices" should the construction of the Parkway commence. It is attached. This guidance letter prioritizes public health above all else. It advises the Parkway to monitor for plutonium in the air and use techniques to minimize fugitive dust from construction.

The Parkway Authority has committed to conduct additional detailed testing in the immediate vicinity of the sample that tested at 264 pCi/g. The department believes this is an appropriate and needed next step. As soon as all the tests are processed and verified by the laboratory, the department will review the final soil

sampling results, identify additional needed sampling, and share this information with the public. The department has also been in contact with the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency regarding the sample.

We want to be a resource for you, so in the coming days, weeks, and months, we will continue to review additional sampling information and do everything possible to ensure you are informed. There is a [state toxicology hotline](#) for Coloradans with specific questions, and we will publish a “frequently asked questions” document in the coming days. Please check the [department’s website](#) for ongoing updates.

We know you will have additional questions, because right now there is a lot left unanswered. Please reach out to Laura Dixon, the communications and community involvement manager with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, with any questions or concerns. Her email address is laura.dixon@state.co.us.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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Attached: Best Practices Letter from CDPHE to JPPHA
 Soil Sample Email from JPPHA to CDPHE
 Laboratory documents
 Presentation on Sampling Status

