

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20285

Dear Administrator Regan and Secretary Granholm,

We write to follow up on our June 2023 letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and Department of Energy (“DOE”) requesting additional investments in air quality monitoring at the Rocky Flats Plant Superfund Site (“Rocky Flats”) in Colorado. The purpose of this letter is to request an update on your interagency coordination efforts regarding air quality monitoring at Rocky Flats, to strongly reiterate our request for additional air quality monitoring at the site, and to ask that you respond to our requests in a timely manner.

In short, we appreciate the investigations your agencies have undertaken into the environmental conditions at Rocky Flats. We especially appreciate your diligence given the heightened wildfire risk our communities are facing, and community engagement you have undertaken following the Marshall Fire of 2021. However, our constituents remain deeply concerned about potential air quality issues at the Rocky Flats site—particularly in the event of a wildfire occurring at or near the site—and we would like to restate the request made by these communities for additional monitoring resources.

In a written response to our offices, the EPA stated that you were coordinating with the DOE, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate integrating air quality monitoring into the long-term remedy performance monitoring program at Rocky Flats and the wildfire management program at the surrounding Wildlife Refuge. DOE stated further in your response letter that you would participate in this coordination as appropriate. Wildfires are increasingly more destructive and costly, and as we saw with the Marshall Fire and recent devastating wildfires in Hawaii, they are an increasing threat to neighboring communities, in addition to forested areas. The 20 largest wildfires in Colorado’s recorded history have occurred since 2001 and continue to become increasingly more frequent and devastating. We must use all tools at our disposal to respond accordingly, and we urge you to continue to respond in a manner that reflects the serious nature of this crisis.

We again request that you implement air quality monitoring at the site as you evaluate the long-term management of the site, in coordination with the other agencies listed above. We request an update on these efforts, either via written response or through a briefing with our respective

offices. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Pettersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Neguse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress