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Press Release - Muskie Subcommittee to Investigate Atomic Wastes Disposal

Edmund S. Muskie

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FOR RELEASE

Immediately
October 12, 1970

MUSKIE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ATOMIC WASTES DISPOSAL

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D.- Maine), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, today announced that the Subcommittee will investigate the handling of radioactive wastes at the Rocky Flats (Colo.) weapons facility of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In a letter to Lieutenant Governor Mark Hogan of Colorado, released today, Senator Muskie said that the investigation will form the basis for hearings by the Subcommittee next year.

The text of Senator Muskie's letter:

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for sending me your memorandum of August 6 regarding the escape and the disposal of radioactive materials from the Rocky Flats weapons facility. I share your concern over the possible air, water, and land pollution resulting from the escape and disposal of these materials.

I feel that the questions you have raised with respect to the procedures for handling the radioactive wastes, the design of settling basins, the movement of wastes through ground waters and the effectiveness of controls on stack emissions warrant a hearing by the Subcommittee. However, the pending consideration of air and water pollution legislation and the limited time remaining in this session of Congress, make it impossible for the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution to hold immediate field hearings on this matter. I have asked the staff of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution to investigate the issues you have raised and to report to the Subcommittee as soon as possible. I have asked the staff to consult with your office, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the Dow Chemical Company and interested citizens in conducting their review. The findings of the staff will form the basis for hearings by the Subcommittee during the next session of Congress.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

Edmund S. Muskie
United States Senator