

SIERRA CLUB



Rocky Mountain Chapter
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May 10, 1999

Dear Principal:

As members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club, we are concerned about student visitations to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA). As you may be aware, numerous schools in the Denver metro area sponsor student trips to RMA to learn about wildlife. While this type of education is certainly commendable, especially for students in an urban area, risks from toxic chemical exposure at RMA may outweigh the benefits.

Major clean-up efforts at the arsenal that will include dismantling of contaminated structures and massive movements of chemically contaminated soil are just beginning. There will be many locations at RMA that will have soil movement activities happening concurrently over the next 10-year period. As an example, one of the largest of these efforts will be taking place about a football field's length from the present visitor's center in the South Plants area. Because of the possibility of health risks to visitors during this clean up, we believe it is inappropriate for visitors to be touring RMA at this time, especially children and young adults. Further reasons for our concern were also detailed in a February 17, 1999 article regarding another section of RMA from the Commerce City Beacon (included on the reverse side of this letter).

We think you should have similar concerns for your students regarding tours to RMA. We suggest that instead of offering trips to the arsenal you could take advantage of environmental education opportunities at other nearby locations. These areas could include:

Roxborough State Park	303 973-3959
Barr Lake State Park	303 659-6005
Cherry Creek State Park	303 690-1166
Chatfield State Park	303 791-7275
Jefferson County Open-Space Parks	303 271-5925
Castlewood Canyon State Park	303 688-5242
Golden Gate Canon State Park	303 582-3707

Each of these locations offers programs designed for student education about wildlife and the environment in an uncontaminated atmosphere. We would encourage you to consider these locations as suitable alternatives for outdoor educational programs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will give it your immediate consideration and pass this information on to your teaching staff. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the phone number listed below.

Yours truly,

Sandra A. Horrocks
Chairperson, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Subcommittee
Phone: 303 470-1352

