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Leffco Airport

Ban on plutonium flights lifted

Jefferson County Airport has lifted its ban on flights of radioactive cargo for the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Airport Manager Dave Gordon prohibited the flights last spring pending the establishment of safety procedures.

Under the terms of the resolution which reopened the airport to the flights, the plutonium must be sealed in

certified containers and Rocky Flats personnel must be provided to supervise all flights. The unanimously approved resolution also provides Gordon with the authority to monitor both incoming and outgoing flights and to halt them if he feels the operation is not in the airport's best interests.

Gordon has never said he didn't want Rocky Flats using the airport for radioactive flights, but

maintained that he stopped the flights pending the establishment of adequate safety procedures. Gordon said the allegations were totally false and that a threatened loss of federal funds was the motivating factor behind the airport

authority's withdrawing its ban. "It is not true that the FAA had any bearing on the authority's decision," he said.

Gordon noted that any further restrictions on the flights must come from the state or federal level.