# Would you like to see Rocky Mountain Laboratories be an Incineration-Free campus?

Rocky Mountain Laboratories is currently taking scoping comments for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for their Master Plan for the campus. They are accepting suggestions of topics and concerns which should determine the scope of the EIS. This is a great opportunity to help determine the future of the campus and ensure that RML responds to the community's needs and interests.

## What are they incinerating at Rocky Mountain Labs (RML)?

Currently RML is incinerating all of its infectious medical waste. It is estimated to be between 160,000 and 223,000 pounds of waste each year. **Roughly 38% of this waste is made of plastic** - including plastic gloves, gowns, tubing, labware etc. In addition all waste that is incinerated is single, double or triple-bagged in plastic bags. In the fall of 2005, RML ceased incinerating its non-infectious waste (office and lunchroom garbage) and implemented a substantial recycling program.

## What are the emissions from the incinerator? Are they harmful?

RML has measured emissions of **particulates, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, cadmium, lead, mercury, and dioxins and furans** from its incinerator stack. All of the measured emissions have been within the legal limits allowed in their permit.

RML has not been required to test for any other pollutants. However, medical waste incineration is commonly known to also produce emissions of **PCBs, aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, chromium, copper, iron, manganese, nickel, silver, thallium, hydrogen fluoride and chlorine**.

While the emissions from RML may not exceed legal limits for pollution, the validity of those legal limits to protect public health has been brought into question. For persistent toxic pollutants that accumulate in our environment over time, any level of emissions simply continues to worsen the problem.

## Can Rocky Mountain Laboratories go Incineration-Free? What are the alternatives?

**YES! Non-incineration technologies are available to satisfactorily disinfect the unique infectious wastes generated at RML**. A 2005 report called "A Study of Alternative Treatment Technologies for Infectious Waste at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories" commissioned by RML, identified three potential non-incineration technologies for non-prion contaminated waste and one technology for prion-contaminated waste, The report found that these technologies are commercially available and feasible to install at RML. Non-incineration alternatives would eliminate the emissions of pollutants currently associated with the incinerator.