

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATOR ALLARD QUESTIONS DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ REGARDING PUEBLO DEPOT CLEANUP

Wolfowitz says DoD re-examining decisions at Pueblo Depot

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) questioned Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz Tuesday during a Senate Budget Committee hearing about the failure of the Defense Department to move ahead with the cleanup of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Depot and other such facilities.

SENATOR ALLARD: “I, along with other members, have been working closely on the Department of Defense’s chemical weapons demilitarization program. As you may be aware, the Department of Defense recently decided to delay the construction of the disposal sites in Pueblo, Colorado and Bluegrass, Kentucky for at least six years.

“Is the Department reconsidering its decision to suspend all construction activities at the disposal sites in Colorado and Kentucky?”

DEPUTY SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ: “We’re taking another look at that whole decision. There is no question the costs are going through the roof and we need to do something.”

SENATOR ALLARD: “Part of the reason for these delays is that the Department of Defense is asking for more studies, when it already has done three studies. And Congress has passed legislation that says the transportation of these materials is off the table, requiring presidential approval and approval of the state governors involved. Yet this (transportation proposal) is included in the studies.

“Some of the costs we’re considering here are due to faults in the demilitarization project itself, the repeated delays and its lack of focus. The people of Pueblo, Colorado and Kentucky have been misled.”

DEPUTY SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ: “We are re-examining what is going on in Colorado and Kentucky. My greatest concern is that the projects be cost effective.”

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Following the hearing, Senator Allard said he is pleased to hear that DoD is re-examining the decision not to spend the money Congress has appropriated for the Pueblo and Kentucky projects during this fiscal year.

“I will continue to take any and all opportunities to raise this issue until the DoD reverses its decision,” Senator Allard said.

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