

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
Thursday, March 18, 1999

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Jennifer Pellett
(202) 224-5936

ALLARD PUSHES DOE FOR 2006 ROCKY FLATS CLOSURE AT APPROPRIATIONS HEARING SAYS WIPP OPENING CRITICAL TO CLOSURE

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today pushed Department of Energy (DOE) officials to continue their efforts to cleanup Rocky Flats by 2006 at a Senate Appropriations Hearing.

“This is my number one legislative priority,” Allard said to DOE officials before the Senate Energy and Water Subcommittee. “Last year’s \$657.2 million dollar appropriation was a step in the right direction towards accelerating Rocky Flats cleanup deadline from 2010 to 2006, and we need to continue that funding level for this year.”

Allard also stressed the need for DOE to push forward with their efforts to open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico, saying it is ‘critical’ to the closure of Rocky Flats.

“The expeditious opening of WIPP is critical to getting Rocky Flats closed by 2006,” Allard said. “The longer it takes for WIPP to open, the longer it will take to close Rocky Flats.”

Allard earlier this week asked the EPA to immediately certify Rocky Flats for shipments to WIPP.