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SENATOR ALLARD PROTECTS PUEBLO DEPOT FUNDING

*Language included in supplemental bill
requires more than \$372 million to be spent on cleanup,
forbids studies on shipping weapons from current locations*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has joined with U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) on an addition to the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act that protects \$372.38 million previously appropriated but not spent by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for cleaning up chemical weapons stockpiles at the Pueblo Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Depot in Kentucky. Their added language was included in the supplemental appropriations legislation acted on by the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

The Act, to be voted on by the full Senate next week, requires the program manager of the two projects to spend or contract for \$100 million-worth of work at the sites in no more than 120 days.

“We have waited on the Department of Defense long enough,” Senator Allard said. “I thought it was time for us to take matters in our own hands and write into law what the Congress believes should be done to address the necessity of cleaning up these chemical weapons facilities, rather than tolerate any more foot-dragging by the DoD.”

“It is too bad the DoD has to be pushed by Congress to do the right thing,” the Senator said.

The supplemental appropriations legislation also forbids the expenditure of the funding provided for Pueblo and Blue Grass on any other program, and it specifically forbids any expenditure whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, on any study related to the transportation of chemical weapons across state lines.

“One of the reasons I joined the Appropriations Committee was to be able to exercise close oversight of the federal projects most important to Colorado,” Senator Allard said. “The Pueblo Depot cleanup, with its attendant treaty obligations, certainly falls into that category.”

“This makes it crystal clear: The Department must use the funds previously appropriated to move forward with the design and construction at both sites. DoD needs to give up its endless, pointless studies of alternative demilitarization technologies, complete the design process for both sites and get on with the business of cleaning up those facilities,” Senator Allard said.