

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SAYS GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S POLITICAL GAMESMANSHIP ENDANGERS 2006 CLOSURE OF ROCKY FLATS

COLORADO LAWMAKER SAYS GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS PUT'S SOUTH CAROLINA'S LONG TERM CLEAN-UP GOALS AT RISK

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Strategic Subcommittee, today said before a congressional hearing that South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges' political gamesmanship is endangering the 2006 closure of Rocky Flats and putting at risk future clean-up at South Carolina's nuclear sites.

“The Governor of South Carolina has decided to play politics,” said Allard before a congressional hearing on the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Program and the National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Programs. “As a result of his dangerous gamesmanship, our national security and our nation's environmental security have been placed at risk.”

Allard discussed the importance of understanding that each nuclear site is dependent on other nuclear sites. When one is no longer needed, materials and the funds that once went to the site are moved to another operational site. A state's decision to shut down their borders and impede negotiations with the Department of Energy not only put's their nuclear site at risk, but all the nation's nuclear sites at risk.

“When a state unilaterally shuts their border, they should beware that their border can be shut down in both directions,” Allard said. “If other states, in turn, shut down their respective borders, our national security and environmental responsibilities may hang in the balance.”

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