

Wayne Allard

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

CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944

April 11, 2005

SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD TELLS UNDER SECRETARY WYNNE 'WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH, IT'S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD' ON PUEBLO DEPOT CLEANUP PROJECT'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) told Under Secretary of Defense Michael Wynne Monday that, “We’ve waited long enough on the demilitarization project at the depot, and it’s time to move forward,” in regard to the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Depot in Colorado.

Senator Allard, speaking at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, said, “I am frustrated, and the people of Colorado are frustrated. We cannot seem to get a straight answer from the Department of Defense (DoD).”

“The Department continues to study this issue to no end. It is time to stop evaluating hypothetical new technologies and illegal transportation options and get on the business of destroying these weapons,” Senator Allard said. “The Department has had the money long enough. It’s time for them to spend it.”

“My question to you is: When are you going to start studying and begin moving forward with getting this project started, and completed,” the Senator said. “This is why Senator Mitch McConnell and I attached several provisions to the supplemental spending bill requiring the department to spend the funds Congress has appropriated for destroying these weapons.”

Last week Senator Allard and Senator McConnell were successful in getting several provisions included in the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Bill that pertain to the chemical weapons cleanup program. Those provisions include:

- * Requiring the department to spend or contract to spend \$100 million on the program within 30 days;
- * Requiring the department to turn over all the funding it is holding at headquarters to the program manager of the Pueblo site;
- * Preventing the department from re-transferring funding intended for Pueblo to a different cleanup site;
- * Prohibiting the study of transportation options.

The Supplemental Appropriations Bill is expected to pass the Senate later this week.