

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD CITES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF WORKERS ON DAY LAST NUCLEAR SHIPMENT LEAVES ROCKY FLATS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) had high praise for the U.S. Department of Energy's Rocky Flats cleanup project on Tuesday, the day when the final shipment of transuranic nuclear waste left the site outside of Denver.

"This is an outstanding achievement. We are under budget and ahead of schedule at Rocky Flats," Senator Allard said. "Eight years ago, no one would have believed it was possible."

"I want to commend the Rocky Flats workers for their outstanding performance. Their story at Rocky Flats is one of heroism and dedication," the Senator said. "The same workers who risked their lives for their country during the Cold War have worked tirelessly to clean up and close one of the most contaminated sites in America, demonstrating what can be accomplished when people work together to meet a common goal."

Rocky Flats is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and manufactured components for nuclear weapons for the nation's defense until 1992. The current mission of the plant is closure - environmental cleanup, waste management and decommissioning - by December 2006. The industrial complex of more than 100 buildings is located in the center of about nine square miles of undeveloped land 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver.

"It is a magnificent accomplishment that this project is going to be complete ahead of schedule," Senator Allard said. "When the clean-up is complete, Coloradans and people from around the country will be able to take pride in what has been done here: the cleanup and closure of the first former nuclear weapons facility in the United States."

Last month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) notified Senator Allard that it has started conducting an assessment of the cleanup project at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site, a former nuclear production facility. Senator Allard requested that the GAO perform such an assessment in November, 2004. The GAO has previously conducted assessments of the Rocky Flats closure project in 1999 and 2001 at Senator Allard's request. Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Senator Allard has worked to successfully roll back the target date for the cleanup to be completed from 2070 to 2006.