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SENATE APPROVES SENATOR ALLARD'S PUEBLO DEPOT LEGISLATION

*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. – The U.S. Senate Thursday voted 99 to zero to approve the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act which includes provisions added by U.S. Senators Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) and Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to spend \$372.38 million previously appropriated but not spent for cleaning up chemical weapons stockpiles at the Pueblo Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Depot in Kentucky.

The Act 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.

“Although the department announced earlier this week that it was dropping any consideration of moving the chemical weapons out of Pueblo for disposal and would begin contracting for the disposal on site, I believe it is prudent that these policies be enshrined in law,” Senator Allard said. “This is dotting the Is and crossing the Ts to ensure DoD carries out Congress’ intentions.”

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.

“The Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, which was ratified by the United States in 1997, sets out a very specific deadline for destruction of our chemical weapons stockpiles,” said Senator Allard. “Today’s Senate vote moves us one step closer to being able to comply with that treaty as we move toward the 2012 deadline.”

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