

Wayne Allard

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STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD IN RESPONSE TO INTERIOR SECRETARY' S DECISION ON WATER RELEASES FROM LAKE POWELL

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) made the following statement Monday after U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gail Norton today announced she has decided to maintain Colorado River water releases from Lake Powell at their scheduled level for the next five months:

“The Secretary's decision makes it clear that the Department of the Interior has the authority to make adjustments to releases from Lake Powell as part of annual operations.

“While I had hoped that releases would be cut back this year, I am encouraged that the Secretary has acknowledged the possibility of future curtailments, and has outlined a process for a mid-year review in 2006. This is critical: While the drought may have eased somewhat, we are clearly not yet out of the woods. A future examination of this decision is warranted given the drought conditions of the past several years.

“I look forward to working with Secretary Norton and the Compact states to help develop a plan that protects the Upper Basin states and as well as ensures adequate water for the Lower Basin.”

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