

Wayne Allard

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2004

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

U.S. HOUSE, SENATE POISED FOR FINAL VOTE ON FUNDING FOR PUEBLO DEPOT CLEANUP

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) said Wednesday that the U.S. House and Senate are poised to take a final vote on the FY 2005 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that contains \$50 million for chemical weapons cleanup at the U.S. Army's Pueblo Depot. The vote could occur as early as Thursday.

A House-Senate conference concluded its work last week and returned the legislation to the two chambers for a final vote before the bill goes to the President for his signature. The Senate has already voted to authorize \$147 million for the cleanup. Federal funding for such projects must receive the go-ahead in two separate pieces of legislation - authorizing and appropriating – in order for the funding to be provided.

“The Senate appropriated \$50 million for the Pueblo cleanup, and I have secured a commitment from (Senate Appropriations) Chairman Ted Stevens that the funding needed to continue and complete the project will be provided through the Appropriations Committee as we move forward,” Senator Allard said. “Bottom line here is that additional funding will be forthcoming so that the Pueblo Depot cleanup can move forward with destruction of the more than 700,000 rounds of chemical munitions stored there.”

“It has been a hard-fought battle, but we carried the day,” Senator Allard said. “This is a victory for the people of Pueblo.”

The Department of Defense's (DOD) initial FY2005 budget request for the project, made in February, would have resulted in a dramatic shortfall in funding and, as a result, raised the risk that the cleanup would be delayed.

#