

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SECURES \$200,000 FOR CONDUIT STUDY FUNDING WILL JUMP START PROJECT AUTHORIZED IN 1962

Washington, D.C. – The Senate Appropriations Committee has agreed to U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's request for \$200,000 to fund a re-evaluation statement on the Arkansas Valley Conduit. The statement will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to determine current needs, and how best to proceed with the project. Allard had requested the funding in a July 15th letter to the Appropriations Committee. The funding was added to the Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill (S. 2784) by Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell during the markup of the bill. The study will be conducted by the Bureau in 2003.

Although it was approved for construction by the federal government in 1962 as a part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, the Arkansas Valley Conduit was never built because the primarily agricultural communities it would serve could not afford to pay the non-federal share of its costs. Existing law requires the local beneficiaries to repay 100 percent of the project's costs. Last week, Senator Allard and Colorado Fourth District U.S. Representative Bob Schaffer introduced legislation that would reduce the local share to 25

“This is a big step forward in making the Arkansas Valley Conduit a reality,” said Allard. “This funding jump starts the process to get this project off the ground. The next big step comes in getting Congress to approve my legislation that authorizes the cost share formula.”

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