



U . S . SENATOR ★ COLORADO

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### SENATOR ALLARD PRAISES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF WORKERS AS ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP PROJECT DECLARED COMPLETE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) on Wednesday had words of praise for workers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Rocky Flats cleanup project following notification from the contractor, CH2MHill, that remediation of all contamination at the site, including the hot spots discovered last summer, has been completed.

"Rocky Flats is the best example of a nuclear cleanup success story ever," Senator Allard said.

"Words can not completely describe the transformation that has taken place at Rocky Flats. The workers at Rocky Flats have gone far above and beyond their assignment, and accomplished this cleanup under budget and ahead of schedule," Senator Allard continued. "I also want to commend the contractor, CH2MHill, for their painstaking, efficient management of this massive project."

"Eight years ago when we began this journey, I was one of only a few individuals who believed it would be possible to accomplish so much so fast, and stay within budget as well," Senator Allard added. "These workers labored tirelessly to cleanup and close one of the most dangerous sites in America, demonstrating that the impossible is possible when people cooperate in order to meet a common goal."

According to the cleanup contract, the Department of Energy (DOE) has 90 days to formally accept the cleanup work. If necessary, DOE can provide a list of items that must be addressed by the contractor during this time to help ensure DOE's acceptance of the cleanup declaration. After DOE accepts the cleanup, the EPA and the State of Colorado begin the process of verifying that the cleanup is in accordance with federal cleanup laws and the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement.

Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Senator Allard has worked successfully to roll back the target date for the cleanup to be completed from 2070 to 2005. In 2001, Congress passed legislation by Senator Allard to make Rocky Flats upon cleanup and closure a National Wildlife Refuge. The legislation requires the Department of Energy to transfer most of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site to the Department of Interior for the purpose of creating a wildlife refuge to preserve Colorado's unique Front Range habitat once cleanup of the site is complete.

Rocky Flats manufactured components for nuclear weapons for the nation's defense until 1992. The mission of the plant was to complete the environmental and waste management cleanup, and decommissioning by December 2006. The industrial complex of more than 100 buildings was located in the center of about nine square miles of undeveloped land 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver.

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