

CONTACT: Carol Knight, 202-224-5852 Jan. 18, 1995

"Now we find out that Shell is engaging in 'gold-plating' and driving up costs," Campbell said. "I want to find out how deep and broad these questionable billing practices go."

Campbell said he also found it strange that Shell Oil officials lobbied on Capitol Hill last year to ban the state of Colorado from any oversight of clean-up at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, claiming that the state would "gold plate" the eventual toxic waste remedy at the site, driving up costs with frivolous demands for the clean-up.

"I can't be ironic that the public gets to pay for all sorts of questionable charges, even for Shell's 'relations' with the public, but the public doesn't get to know who is charging what amount for exactly what works?"

Campbell said he also was concerned that Shell's clean-up contractor, Morrison-Knudson, is claiming that details of charges it has billed constitute "proprietary information" and will not be released.

"The sooner the costs climb to \$500 million, the less of the bill goes to Shell," he said. "So is it any wonder that they charged almost a million dollars in public relations costs to the taxpayers? Why should the public have to pay public relations costs as part of the arsenal cleanup?" he asked.

"Shell got a deal that allows them to pay a smaller share of clean-up costs as the costs go up," Campbell said in describing the agreement struck in 1989 that requires a 50-50 Army-Shell payment of clean-up costs until a \$500 million threshold is reached, at which point the Shell share drops to 35 percent and drops again to 20 percent at the \$750 million threshold.

"As it the mess at the arsenal isn't bad enough -- and certainly it was bad enough to land it on the Superfund list -- now it looks like the taxpayers are getting cleaned out better than the site."

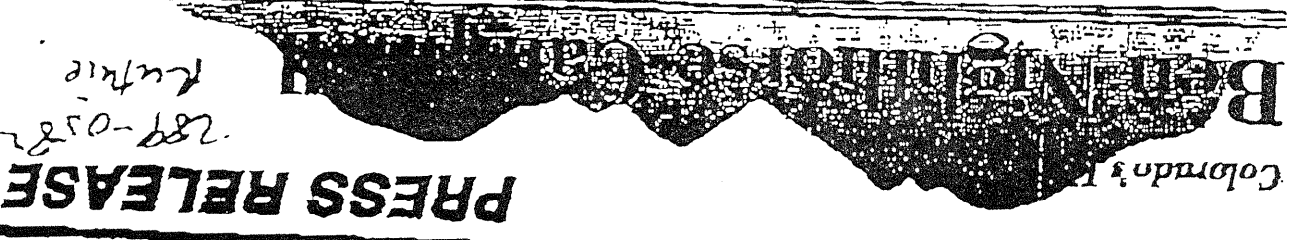
Campbell's call for a GAO study comes after published reports of questionable charges made by Shell Oil Company, which is supposed to share clean-up costs with the Army. Both are responsible for polluting the site with toxic wastes.

"It's really discouraging to see clean-up costs climbing ever higher, and then find out that steak dinners, Aspen meetings and trips to Europe are being charged as part of the clean-up costs," Campbell said.

U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell said today in asking the General Accounting Office to look into billing practices associated with clean-up at the arsenal and make recommendations as to whether a Superfund settlement agreement governing the clean-up should be reviewed.

"Something sticks out at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and it's not just the nasty chemicals left behind by the Army and Shell Oil," U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell said today in asking the General Accounting Office to look into billing practices associated with clean-up at the arsenal and make recommendations as to whether a Superfund settlement agreement governing the clean-up should be reviewed.

CAMPBELL CALLS FOR GAO REVIEW OF ROCKY MTN. ARSENAL CLEAN-UP



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