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NEWS RELEASE



Colorado Departments of Law and  
Public Health and Environment  
Attorney General John W. Suthers and  
Executive Director James Martin



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**STATE TRUSTEES EXTEND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PLAN**

(DENVER) – The Colorado natural resource trustees have extended the deadline for public comments on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Plan until Jan. 29, 2008. The NRDA Plan details past and ongoing damages to natural resources caused by chemical production at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and proposes a methodology for assessing the monetary value of those damages. The document, which provides the basis of a legal claim against Shell and the U.S. Army to recover damages for environmental injuries can be downloaded at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/rmaplan.htm>.

Written comments should be sent to:  
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The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, not only requires polluters to clean up contaminated sites, but also holds them legally accountable for natural resource damages caused by their actions. The NRDA process is designed to compensate the public for past losses, resources that cannot be completely cleaned up and resources damaged as a result of the clean-up process.

The NRDA Plan was prepared on behalf of the three state natural resource trustees, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers; Executive Director Jim Martin, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE); and Ron Cattany, Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR). State officials have been working for several months with representatives from Shell Oil and the federal government to resolve the case. If settlement negotiations are unsuccessful, the state is prepared to pursue legal action to recover natural resource damages based on the NRDA. Any recoveries gained through litigation or settlement will be used to replace, restore or acquire similar natural resources, such as wildlife habitat, groundwater and clean air.

Clean-up actions at the Arsenal are scheduled to be completed in 2010. Once the remaining areas are removed from the EPA's National Priorities List, the Army will transfer about 2,500 acres to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, adding to the 12,000-plus acres already cleaned up and accessible to the public. The Army will retain approximately 1,100 acres to maintain its landfills and groundwater treatment plants, ensuring the safety of nearby residents.

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