

AMERICANS FOR JOB SECURITY AD: "SUMMITVILLE" :60

SCRIPT:

Summitville Mine. A Canadian company pulled \$130 million worth of gold out of Colorado, but left behind the worst cyanide spill in American history.

Seventeen miles of dead river. Over \$230 million in estimated clean-up costs.

Ken Salazar ran the Department of Natural Resources at the time, and his agency's lax oversight was blamed in part for the disaster.

THE FACTS:

- **FACT: SUMMITVILLE'S PROBLEMS TOOK PLACE ALMOST ENTIRELY BEFORE SALAZAR EVEN REACHED DNR**

According to the EPA, the Summitville Mine operated from June 1986 to October 1991.

Permitting for the mine took place in 1984, and construction of the mine took place in 1985 and 1986. Leaks started almost immediately upon operation in 1986, in 1987 the mine had at least eight spills, and in 1989 the mine attempted to activate a water treatment plant, which failed to function properly. The EPA arrived at the Summitville mine in September of 1990 after receiving an anonymous phone tip regarding the violations. The mine subsequently paid \$100,000 in civil penalties, on top of \$30,000 it had already paid in previous fines, and agreed to begin drafting a clean-up plan for the mine. The plan was prepared by November 1992. **Ken Salazar led the Department of Natural Resources from November 1990 to March 1994.**

- **FACT: PREVIOUS, NEAR-IDENTICAL GOP ATTACKS HAVE BEEN CALLED "A SLUR," A "BASE DISTORTION" AND "A SMEAR"**

In an October 29, 1998 editorial entitled "A Slur Against Ken Salazar," the Rocky Mountain News wrote of a similar attack on Ken Salazar over Summitville: "Salazar took over the Department of Natural Resources in 1990, six years after the mine received a permit and long after it commenced operations. The 'environmental disaster' occurred in part because of the way the mine was constructed - for example, safety liners were apparently ripped during installation - and also because some people at the mine then sought to conceal the resulting problems. To make matters worse, at the very period the disaster was unfolding, the legislature slashed the number of inspectors responsible for checking on the hundreds of mines throughout the entire state. In effect, Salazar appeared on the scene after the Titanic had struck the iceberg. He was no more responsible for the ensuing pollution than he was at the helm of the Exxon Valdez. To his credit, Salazar did respond energetically to the Summitville fiasco once in office. Not only did he prod efforts to pursue the responsible company, he also was the single person most responsible for a package of proposals to make sure that another Summitville never occurred. Many of those suggestions quickly became law. ... If Suthers is truly interested in fair play, he will repudiate Centennial Spirit's literature as the base distortion it clearly is."

	<p>In an October 1998 column in the <u>Denver Post</u>, columnist Al Knight wrote: “A group called Centennial Spirit, with obvious Republican ties, has circulated an “issue ad” calling Ken Salazar, the Democratic candidate for attorney general, the “man responsible for regulating” the Summitville Mine which “left Colorado with the worst environmental disaster in memory.” <u>That, as everyone who knows anything about Summitville knows, is both malicious and false. The nature of a smear like this is that while it takes but a few words to make the smear it requires hundreds more to answer it. It has no place in our politics.</u>”</p>
<p>To make matters worse, as Attorney General, Ken Salazar cut deals with the foreign millionaire responsible, and others, rather than fight to get more money for the clean-up.</p> <p>The result? Summitville mine produces \$130 million worth of gold and the worst environmental disaster in Colorado history.</p> <p>The person responsible pays less than \$30 million toward the clean-up, sticking taxpayers with a bill of more than \$100 million ... and counting.</p> <p>Call Ken Salazar and tell him to fight for Colorado taxpayers for a change.</p>	<p>➤ <u>FACT: SALAZAR’S SETTLEMENT WITH FRIEDLAND WAS THE LARGEST PENALTY EVER PAID BY AN INDIVIDUAL AND A RECORD FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CASE</u></p> <p>On December 22, 2000, Ken Salazar won a \$27.5 million settlement between former Galactic Resources chief Robert Friedland, the state of Colorado and the federal government, entered into in US District Court. <u>The settlement was the largest penalty ever paid by an individual in the history of the state of Colorado and a record for an environmental case.</u></p> <p>➤ <u>FACT: SALAZAR WAS LAUDED BY MEDIA STATEWIDE FOR EFFORTS IN SUMMITVILLE CASE, INCLUDING SAVING TAXPAYERS MONEY</u></p> <p><u>Rocky Mountain News editorial:</u> “Five years of bitter legal battles over the ecological disaster at the Summitville mine have almost obscured the fact that the goal is not to win the lawsuit. It’s to clean up the mess. ... The payment will more than cover Colorado’s share of cleanup costs over the next decade, said Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, money that otherwise would have been paid ultimately by taxpayers. <u>It’s hard to argue with a result like that.</u>” (editorial, <u>RMN</u>, 1/2/01)</p> <p><u>Denver Post editorial:</u> “The \$27.5 million settlement reached last week in the Summitville mine environmental disaster is <u>welcome news for Coloradans</u> living in the Alamosa River watershed. ... Of the \$27.5 million, the state will get \$11 million, enough to pay past and future costs of administering the site once the state assumes ownership in several years.” (editorial, <u>DP</u>, 12/27/00)</p>

Pueblo Chieftain editorial: “We applaud Mr. Salazar’s zeal in bringing this phase of the lawsuit to a close. As he put it in his announcement, instead of waiting for years and spending tens of millions of dollars while this case made its way through the courts, the people most affected by the Summitville Mine will see very positive and direct benefits, while a financial burden has been lifted from the shoulders of Colorado taxpayers. Last Friday’s announcement was a nice Christmas present for the people damaged by the Summitville disaster.” (editorial, PC, 12/27/00)

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel editorial: “Kudos to Salazar and his staff for sticking with the difficult case and reaching a settlement that holds Friedland fiscally responsible to Colorado for the environmental calamity the mine created. It was nice holiday news for the state and those who live near the Alamosa River.” (editorial, GJDS, 12/27/00)

➤ **FACT: SALAZAR CONTINUED TO PURSUE OTHER RESPONSIBLE PARTIES FOR SUMMITVILLE, RECOVERING MORE THAN \$1M**

In addition, on January 2, 2001, Salazar filed suit in federal court against five additional firms associated with Summitville mine: Sunoco Inc. (a former owner of the mine), A.O. Smith Corp. (the parent company of Summitville Consolidated Mines, which owned Summitville in the 1930s and 1940s), Asarco Inc. (which leased Summitville mine for six years during the 1970s), Atlantic Richfield Corp. (which was the corporate successor to Anaconda Minerals, the firm which took control of the Summitville mine after Asarco halted operations in the 1970s) and Bechtel Corp. (which designed and built buildings and other systems at the mine and was a part owner of Galactic Resources). Salazar has already won over \$1 million from two of these firms: Cleveland Cliffs/Union Pacific Resources Group (agreed to pay Colorado \$835,000, on top of a 1996 agreement to pay the EPA \$700,000) and Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) (agreed to pay \$250,000 to the Colorado Health Department).