

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Congressman Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), today announced that, "The House Public Works and Transportation Committee will not only investigate the two recent carbon tetrachloride spills in the Ohio River, but an on-the-site inspection tour may also be on tap for the Committee."

Congressman Rahall, a member of the important Public Works Committee said, "I have discussed the possibility of such a trip with Rep. Bizz Johnson, (D-Calif.), Chairman of the Committee and Rep. Bo Ginn, (D-Ga), chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigation and Review."

"Both of my colleagues have been very receptive to the idea," Rahall said.

Members of the Public Works Committee were informed last week that an investigation into the chemical spills would begin immediately but Rahall pointed out, "Members of Congress should see first-hand, the threat to the health and welfare of the communities involved when such spillages take place."

The Environmental Protection Agency has been called to testify before the Investigation Subcommittee and explain the course they followed after the spill.

Rahall observed, "There is some question as to whether or not the EPA acted properly to alert the residents along the river of the spill and also if the EPA has been doing a proper job of monitoring discharges into the river." Congressman Rahall expressed confidence that the Subcommittee would do an effective job of looking into the matter.

Rahall pointed out, "Up until this time, I felt the EPA and the State Department of Natural Resources were handling the spill. However I believe that the action taken so far has not been swift enough and Federal government must look into the situation, especially since it is EPA's responsibility to enforce the Federal Water Pollution Control Act."