

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (D-4th), today announced that the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, has accepted his invitation to visit surface mining sites in West Virginia before considering a federal strip mining law.

Rahall, a member of the subcommittee, stated that he was informed of the decision by Congressman Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz), Chairman of the Interior Committee.

Congressman Rahall said, "The Subcommittee will conduct field inspections on surface mining and reclamation in three locations throughout the nation. The Eastern field trip will consist of three sets of two day investigations: 1. Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio, 2. Southern West Virginia and Virginia, and 3. Northern West Virginia and Pennsylvania."

The additional trips will be conducted in the Mid-Continent region, which consists of Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois; and the Western region, which will include Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona.

Rahall pointed out that specific dates and places have not yet been determined, but the trips are tentatively scheduled for three weekends in March. Consideration of the strip mining bill will begin after the field trips are concluded.

"In keeping with the Subcommittee's practice on participation," Rahall stated. "Representatives from the coal mining industry and environmental/citizen groups will be invited to join the group on the field trips."

The Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment has also planned a field trip to Europe to study surface mining facilities there. "As a member of the Subcommittee, I have declined the invitation to take part in the trip abroad, because the needs of West Virginia are utmost in my mind on this issue," Congressman Rahall said.

Local media and concerned groups will be informed of the Subcommittee's schedule well in advance of the trip to West Virginia.