

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Mike Serpe  
202-225-3452

Huntington, West Virginia --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), after a visit to Milton said today, "I am very pleased with the coordination and readiness of the State, Local and Federal agencies to deal with the recovery effort in the 5 counties declared Federal Disaster areas by President Carter." Carter's declaration on Thursday, December 14, makes the 15th Presidentially-declared major disaster for West Virginia in the last 17 years.

Rahall stated that he was also pleased with the location of the Federal coordinating office. "Barboursville is a much more accessible spot for the flood headquarters," Rahall said. "During the Tug Valley disaster of 1977, the federal representatives were too far from the scene to be effective in their work. However in this case, I am happy to see that the needs of those stricken are the top priority," Congressman Rahall observed.

At the present time, Rahall pointed out that, "Five disaster assistance centers will be located in Milton, Dingess, Dunloe, Ripley and Hamlin." These centers will handle any problems that victims may have.

The major reason for the federal declaration Congressman Rahall noted, "Is the need for temporary housing, because at the present time it is estimated that 100 families are in need of housing, and another 400 families will require repairs to make their homes livable."

Other types of assistance that will now be available to flood victims are:

- S.B.A. Disaster loans for business and homeowners at 7 3/8%
- Farmer's Home Administration loans at 5% for loss to farm property and crops.
- Individual Family Grants of up to \$5000, for those denied any other type of assistance.
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance for those who are out of work due to the disaster.
- Grants of roads, bridges, facilities and utilities will be provided by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration.
- Individuals may be eligible to claim casualty loss deductions on income tax returns. I.R.S. representatives will at the Centers to assist.