

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Mike Serpe  
202-225-3452

Washington D.C. --- "It's not very often that a federal agency admits to messing something up, so on this basis I am relatively pleased with the findings," Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-4th), stated in reference to the "Report on West Virginia Disaster Response Critique," just released by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA).

The report is the result of efforts made by numerous federal agencies to identify and improve the problems encountered during the April, 1977 flood in southern West Virginia.

"They admit to making mistakes," Rahall said, "and from what I can see, efforts are being made to rectify the situation."

The report, released by William C. Tidball, Acting Regional III Director for HUD, pointed out that, "We did learn quite a few lessons in April disaster responses that affected the Appalachian regions and have already employed new disaster response techniques in disasters which have subsequently occurred."

Congressman Rahall observed, "I am already aware of some of improvements implemented by HUD to handle disaster relief, because some of my colleagues in the House of Representatives have informed me of these changes in their congressional districts." Rahall's reference was made specifically in regards to the disaster relief operation in Johnstown, Pa., in 1977. Rep. John Murtha, (D-PA), expressed his praise for the HUD operation to Congressman Rahall.

"I have concluded, that the flood relief effort in southern West Virginia was the proving ground for HUD's operation," Rahall said.

Among some of the modifications, FDAA will utilize new staffing techniques, new guidelines for temporary housing, toll free phone lines to assist victims, and new overall disaster procedures.