

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Williamson, West Virginia --- Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, (D-WV), announced today that Congressional hearings into the ineffectiveness of the Federal relief operations following the April, 1977 flood, will be held in Washington D.C. on April 24. Rahall made the announcement during an interview on WBTH Radio in Williamson.

"Although long-term flood protection is the ultimate goal of all those who experienced last year's devastating flood, the need still exists to make sure that any Federal relief operation in the future is better than the one West Virginians went through," Congressman Rahall stated.

The hearings will be held by the Subcommittee on Investigations and Review of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Congressman Rahall is a member of the Public Works Committee.

Rahall pointed out that, "The Subcommittee will be contacting potential witnesses within the next few weeks."

"I feel confident that when this investigation is concluded, Federal agencies will respond to the needs of disaster victims in a more efficient and speedy fashion," Congressman Rahall observed.

The Congressional Investigation was initially called for by Congressman Rahall, who's Congressional District was declared a Federal Disaster Area as a result of the April 1977 flooding.

"With the advances that are being made toward long-term flood protection, I believe the residents of southern West Virginia have proven, that Americans can go before their elected representatives and government officials, and request assistance when they need it," Rahall said. "The recent trip to Washington by flood victims shows that people can assemble peaceably and obtain results."

Congressman Rahall, along with Congressman Carl D. Perkins, (D-KY), have asked for an immediate \$10 million appropriation for dredging, snagging and widening of the Big Sandy and Guyandotte Rivers of the Levisa and Tug Forks.

"I am confident that we will be able to obtain this much-needed funding for a short-term solution at this time," Rahall concluded.