

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON D.C. --- WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, SAID, "IT IS IMPERATIVE AT THIS TIME THAT A COHERENT NATIONAL COAL POLICY BE DEVELOPED AT THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE TIME", IN A LETTER TO ENERGY SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER.

RAHALL, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR ONE OF THE LARGEST COAL PRODUCING REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY, CHARGED, "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESENT FEDERAL EFFORT GEARED TO INCREASED COAL PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION IS NOT AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH NOR IS IT BEING COORDINATED SUFFICIENTLY."

"GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS NATION'S PRESENT NATIONAL SECURITY POSITION, I WOULD EXPECT THAT BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONGER-RANGE COAL POLICY OPTIONS WOULD BE RECEIVING HIGHER PRIORITY WITHIN THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT AND AMONG THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES," THE CONGRESSMAN WENT ON TO SAY.

RAHALL POINTED OUT, "FROM 1962 TO 1970, COAL PRODUCTION INCREASED FROM 403 MILLION TONS PER YEAR TO 603 MILLION TONS. DESPITE THE RECENT EMPHASIS UPON COAL AND ITS SUBSTITUTION FOR OIL AND GAS, ANNUAL PRODUCTION HAD ONLY INCREASED TO APPROXIMATELY 620 MILLION TONS BY 1977."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL OBSERVED THAT, "IT IS EVIDENT THAT IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, THE COAL PRODUCTION OBJECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN FOR 1985 OF 1 TO 1.2 BILLION TONS, WILL NOT BE MET."

RAHALL REQUESTED THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO:

- CURRENT BUDGET OBLIGATIONS AND PROJECTIONS FOR COAL EXTRACTION, CONVERSION AND TRANSPORTATION.
- SUMMARY OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH FEDERAL AGENCY DEALING WITH COAL, AND DOCUMENTATION OF THEIR POLICY.
- CURRENT COAL PRODUCTION TARGETS AND PLANS.
- ESTIMATE OF BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN THE AREA OF SYNFUEL USE FROM 1985 TO 1990.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL RECENTLY SAID ON THE HOUSE FLOOR, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICY WAS CAUSING "CHAOS" IN THE COAL INDUSTRY.