

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

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## RAHALL RELEASES COAL MINE INSPECTION REPORT

WASHINGTON D.C. --- MSHA HAS NOT PERFORMED ALL COAL MINE INSPECTIONS REQUIRED BY THE COAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1977, THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE HAS LEARNED IN A REPORT TO WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL.

"G.A.O. STRESSED," RAHALL POINTED OUT, "THAT THIS PROBLEM WAS PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE BECAUSE OF A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN ITS INSPECTOR WORKFORCE."

G.A.O.'S REVIEW SHOWED THAT SOME COAL MINE INSPECTIONS REQUIRED BY LAW WERE NOT PERFORMED EITHER NATIONWIDE OR IN LOGAN. LAW STATES THAT QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS ARE REQUIRED BY UNDERGROUND MINES AND SEMIANNUAL INSPECTIONS FOR SURFACE MINES AND FACILITIES.

"NATIONWIDE, OVER THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER, 1980 TO MARCH, 1981, 95 PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL SAID, "BUT OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME, ONLY 65 PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE LOGAN FIELD OFFICE."

THE DECLINE IN THE INSPECTION WORKFORCE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A HIRING FREEZE THAT WAS IMPOSED ON FEDERAL AGENCIES BACK TO 1978, G.A.O. REPORTED. THE PRINCIPAL REASON GIVEN FOR INSPECTOR RESIGNATIONS WAS INADEQUATE SALARIES AND MEDICAL SERVICE, G.A.O. SAID.

"IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE MSHA BUDGET MUST BE BROUGHT UP TO PAR SO THAT THE AGENCY CAN DO ITS PROPER JOB," RAHALL SAID, "AND I PLAN TO DO ALL I CAN TO SEE TO IT THAT THE ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION THE ADMINISTRATION SAID IT WOULD PUT INTO MSHA, IS ACTUALLY DONE."