News From
CONGRESSMAN
Nick Rahall
WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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W.VA. OWED $8.8 MILLION BY FEDS, RAHALL CHARGES

Washington D.C. --- "Although West Virginia may be awarded $31 Million in 1985 for abandoned mine reclamation, and has already received $18.4 Million this year for the same purpose, the Federal Office of Surface Mining still owes our State $8,763,402," charged West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall.

Rahall's comments were made on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives during consideration of a bill to provide FY'85 funding for the Department of the Interior.

"West Virginia is currently being short-changed by the Office of Surface Mining," Rahall stated, "and they have been unable to say when the money will be paid."

Congressman Rahall pointed out, "There can be no doubt that West Virginia has proven its ability to put to good use the reclamation funds it receives. Since 1978, nearly $47 Million has come into West Virginia, with nearly $17 Million going to reclamation projects in the 4th Congressional District."

Rahall listed some of the successful reclamation projects:
- Holden and Peach Creek refuse piles in Logan County
- mine drainage at East Lynn 3 & 4 in Wayne County
- Lilly abandoned mine site in Raleigh County
Reclamation projects currently underway include:
- Helen refuse pile in Raleigh County
- Little Fork refuse pile in McDowell County
- Amherstdale mine site in Logan County

"While I support the 1985 funding for the Department of the Interior, which may include $31 Million for West Virginia," Congressman Rahall stated, "I strongly urge the Department, and its Office of Surface Mining, to make good on the grant award to West Virginia."

"Abandoned mine sites and burning refuse piles are hazards to the people of southern West Virginia and other coal producing regions of our country," Rahall stressed.

"The law is quite clear, and it is time for the Federal Government to pay its bill with the people of West Virginia," Congressman Rahall concluded.

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