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RAHALL WANTS ANSWERS TO FLOOD RELIEF WOES

Washington D.C. --- West Virginia's Fourth District Congressman Nick J. Rahall, concerned about "delays" and "vast discrepancies" following the May, 1984 flooding in the Tug Fork Valley, wants questions answered by two Federal agencies.

Congressman Rahall also hinted that Congressional action may be needed.

In a letter to the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Rahall pointedly stated, "I fail to understand why a more common-sense and compassionate philosophy cannot be employed when dealing with people who have had their entire life's work destroyed by one wave of Mother Nature's hand."

Congressman Rahall told FEMA chief, Louis Guiffrida, that, "My purpose in writing, is to express my concern and the concerns of my constituents about your Agency's performance in the aftermath of the May flooding -- specifically with regard to the National Flood insurance program."

Through contacts with various Tug Valley residents and public officials, Rahall said, "It is my understanding that there are families who have still not had their insurance claims paid."

"At a time when the economy of southern West Virginia is depressed, such delays in processing these insurance claims further multiply the hardships inflicted upon these fine people, and stifles economic recovery in the region," Rahall observed.

Rahall also charged that there "are questions as to the accuracy of the damage assessments on private residences, businesses and public structures made by insurance adjusters sent into the area."

"Vast discrepancies are commonplace," Congressman Rahall stated, "and the victims are having to settle for payments substantially lower than what they believe is fair."

"The residents of the Tug Fork Valley are not looking for handouts or special treatment," Congressman Rahall pointed out, "They, like all other Americans, simply seek a Government that is responsive and understanding."

Rahall wants a meeting with the top administrators of FEMA "as soon as possible, to discuss the Agency's efforts in southern West Virginia.

Congressman Rahall also has been in contact with the head of the Small Business Administration, urging that all applications for disaster assistance be "expedited".