

news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has awarded West Virginia \$2,681,021 to administer the State's abandoned mine lands reclamation program.

"The award goes to the West Virginia Department of Energy and pays all of the state's cost to operate this program," Rep. Rahall explained. "This was the second major grant awarded to West Virginia this month. Earlier, we received more than \$2.3 million from OSMRE to help regulate the surface effects of coal mining.

Mines eligible for reclamation funds are those abandoned prior to the passage of the 1977 Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act. "West Virginia has an extensive abandoned mine land reclamation program," Rahall said. "In the last five years, we have been awarded \$79 million for 176 abandoned mine reclamation projects."

"I also expect a sizeable Abandoned Mine Lands construction grant to West Virginia to be forthcoming in the very near future," Rahall added.

Rep. Rahall will be touring Hobet 07 Mine in Logan County on Thursday, January 16, 1986. He will be departing Huntington by helicopter at 1:45 p.m. and should arrive at Hobet by 3:00 p.m.

"I am looking forward to touring this mine and seeing the progress being made at this site," Rep. Rahall said. "In my capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, a great deal of the work we do affects mines such as these and this is a good opportunity to view firsthand the results of our endeavors."

Rep. Rahall will return to Beckley following the tour.

Rep. Rahall today announced that he has received assurances from the Army Corps of Engineers that provisions will be included in all construction contracts for flood projects in the Tug Fork Valley to provide for the hiring of area workers on these projects.

"I was told, via a letter from the Corps, that there will be provisions to give preference to qualified persons who reside in the area and place a cap of 20% of non-resident workers that can be hired," Rep. Rahall explained. "I voiced my support for these provisions to the Corps in a letter I sent on January 3 and I am happy that the Corps has agreed to include these vital provisions to provide jobs in the Tug Fork Valley."

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Rep. Rahall will appear on a call-in talk show on WGNT radio in Huntington on Thursday, January 16, 1986, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The host of the show is former Huntington mayor and City Council member George Mallott.

Rep. Rahall will also be in Wayne County with his Mobile Office on Thursday, January 16, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at the Wayne County Court House. Anybody who would like to meet with the Congressman concerning a problem they are experiencing with the federal government may do so at that time.

OSMRE AWARDS WEST VIRGINIA \$2,681,021
TO ADMINISTER STATE'S ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has awarded West Virginia \$2,681,021 to administer the State's abandoned mine lands reclamation program.

Acting OSMRE Director Jed D. Christensen said the award goes to the West Virginia Department of Energy and pays all of the State's costs to operate the program.

This was the second major grant awarded West Virginia by OSMRE this month. Earlier, the State received more than \$2.3 million to help regulate the surface effects of coal mining.

"West Virginia has an extensive abandoned mine land reclamation program," Christensen said. "In the last five years, the State has been awarded \$79 million for 176 abandoned mine reclamation projects."

Mines eligible for reclamation funds are those abandoned prior to the passage of the 1977 Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act.

"OSMRE and West Virginia are working together to assure that the State's land and water resources are protected during coal mining and the land is reclaimed after the coal is extracted," Christensen said.

Both awards are in the form of letters of credit with the funds available as needed.

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