

news from ... **Congressman Nick Rahall**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jerry Burkot

February 3, 1986

202-225-3452

Fourth District Big Winner in Reclamation Funds, Rahall Says

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) reported today that of the total amount of money spent on completed abandoned mine reclamation projects in West Virginia since the beginning of the program, some 47% of the funds were expended in his Fourth District. Rahall also noted that of the projects currently under construction, almost 50% of the funds are being spent in his Congressional district.

"I have spent a great deal of time and effort in working to obtain these funds during Congressional consideration of the Interior Department's annual appropriation requests," said Rahall. "The amount of funding for abandoned mine reclamation being spent in my District compared to the rest of the state is very encouraging. I am pleased that the West Virginia Department of Energy recognizes the problems which exist in southern West Virginia due to abandoned mine lands and has used the federal grant funds in this region."

According to Rahall, the latest federal evaluation report of the West Virginia surface mining program shows that as of April of 1985, \$19,367,740 worth of abandoned mine reclamation projects were completed in the state with \$9,085,401 of this amount having been spent in the counties of Logan, Mercer, Wayne, Raleigh, and McDowell. In addition, \$16,699,00 worth of projects were still under construction, with \$8,210,000 of this amount being spent in Mingo, McDowell, Logan, and Raleigh Counties.

"These funds are being used to address a wide variety of threats to the health, safety and welfare of the people residing in these counties due to abandoned coal mine lands," Rahall said. "It gives me great comfort to see these threats being removed."

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program was created by the 1977 federal surface mining act. West Virginia received its first project construction grant in 1981.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COUNTIES BIG WINNERS ON RECLAMATION FUNDING

U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall reported today that of the total amount spent on completed abandoned mine reclamation projects in West Virginia since the beginning of the program, 47% of the funds were expended in counties in his Fourth Congressional District.

Rahall also noted that of the projects currently under construction, almost 50% of the funds are being spent in his Congressional District.

"The amount of funding for abandoned mine reclamation being spent in my District in relation to the total available to the State is encouraging as I have spent a great deal of time and effort in ~~obtaining adequate levels of money for this program~~ working to obtain these funds during congressional consideration of the Interior Department's annual appropriation requests," said Rahall. "I am pleased that the West Virginia Department of Energy recognizes the problems which exist in southern West Virginia due to abandoned mine lands and has used the federal grant funds in this region."

According to Rahall, the latest federal evaluation report of the West Virginia surface mining program shows that ^{as} of April 1985, \$19,367,740 worth of abandoned mine reclamation projects were completed in the state with \$9,085,401 of this amount having been spent for projects in the counties of Logan, Mercer, Wayne, Raleigh and McDowell. In addition, \$16,699,000 worth of projects were still under construction, with \$8,210,000 of this amount being spent in the counties of Mingo, McDowell, Logan, ~~Ral~~ and Raleigh.

" These funds are being used to address a wide variety of threats to the health, safety and welfare of the people residing in these counties due to abandoned coal mine lands," Rahall said. "It gives me great comfort to see these threats being removed."

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation program was created by the 1977 federal surface mining act. West Virginia received its first project construction grant in 1981.