

news from ... Congressman Nick Rahall

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Rahall Announces \$15 Million Reclamation Grant for West Virginia

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced that the federal Office of Surface Mining has allocated \$15 million to West Virginia to fund projects aimed at reclaiming abandoned coal mine lands.

"The state will use this money to contract for reclamation projects in an effort to mitigate the harmful effects of past coal mining practices," Rahall said. "Problems which are addressed by the program include unstable refuse piles, slides, land subsidence, open shafts and acid mine drainage."

"I am pleased at the level of funding West Virginia will receive from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to address these problems," Rahall added. He noted, "This is the state's fifth construction grant from the federal government, and in fiscal year 1986, we rank fourth nationwide in the amount of money received for this purpose."

While the West Virginia Department of Energy and the federal Office of Surface Mining are still in the process of finalizing the specific projects to be funded by the \$15 million grant, Rahall said he expects reclamation projects in the Fourth Congressional District to receive some priority.

Rep. Rahall also announced that he will be meeting with West Virginia Highway Commissioner William Ritchie on Friday February 28 in Charleston. "I look forward to meeting with Commissioner Ritchie to discuss the highway bill which is pending in the Surface Transportation Subcommittee on which I serve. This bill will have an impact on highway projects in our state and I will be discussing this with the Commissioner at that time."

The meeting will be held in the Commissioner's office in Charleston at 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Nick Rahall has accepted an invitation to be the Keynote Speaker at the annual Highlands Spring Review Weekend sponsored by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy on Saturday, May 3, 1986, at 7:00 p.m. The Weekend will be held at Camp Pioneer in Elkins, West Virginia.

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