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CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 14, 1987

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## RAHALL TO NEGOTIATE NUCLEAR WASTE BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) has been named by House Speaker Jim Wright as a member of the House-Senate conference committee on the Budget Reconciliation bill. Rahall will be one of the House negotiators on provisions dealing with nuclear waste storage and his initiative to reform the federal oil and gas leasing program, among others.

The Senate has added legislation which would authorize the construction of a Monitored Retrievable Storage facility as well as one permanent nuclear waste repository as part of its budget bill for fiscal year 1988. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which Rahall will be representing, has reported a bill that would place an 18 month moratorium on nuclear waste activities. However, due to a Rahall amendment, the House legislation would allow for site specific MRS feasibility studies to be conducted at the request of a state governor.

Rahall will also negotiate with the Senate on the reform of the federal oil and gas leasing program. The House as part of its budget bill adopted Rahall legislation which would require most oil and gas leases to be issued on a competitive basis replacing the current practice which largely consists of noncompetitive leasing. In addition, the Rahall proposal would require greater consideration of the environmental consequences of oil and gas leasing decisions on public lands.

"The American public is currently losing untold amounts of revenue due to the lack of competition in federal oil and gas lease issuance and the central theme of my proposal is to ensure that we obtain a fair rate of return for the disposition of federally owned energy resources," Rahall stated.

Rahall also will be one of the representatives of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation during the conference on oil spill liability legislation.