

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 26, 1987

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RAHALL SAYS ARMY CORPS "CHECK WILL BE IN THE MAIL" SOON

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today announced that the federal Treasury has approved the reimbursement of \$323,386 to West Virginia as a result of the Army Corps of Engineers failure to share amounts collected from oil and gas leases located on Corps lands in the state during the period 1978 to 1986.

"The Corps has informed me that the check will be in the mail shortly," said Rahall, who uncovered the Corps lease management practices earlier this year. As a result of Rahall investigation conducted through his Mining Subcommittee, the Corps found that since 1978 it had not reimbursed West Virginia its 75% share of oil and gas production royalties as stipulated by the law governing Corps flood control projects.

Rahall, however, is still troubled over the fact that all Corps records relating to these mineral leases prior to 1978 have been destroyed and as such, the actual amount owed West Virginia may never be known.

At the request of the Congressman, the General Accounting Office is conducting an investigation of all aspects of the Corps lease management activities. Preliminary GAO findings indicate that it may be impossible to ever determine the full amount owed to the state due to the lack of pre-1978 records. Rahall expects the GAO to provide him with a final report in the near future.

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