

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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SOUTHERN W.VA. STEAM COAL SALES SHOW MODEST GROWTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that electric utility purchases of coal produced within the counties of the Fourth Congressional District last year continued a modest growth trend despite generally soft nationwide market conditions.

Citing a statistical analysis of coal purchases by electric utility powerplants compiled by his office, Rahall said that in 1987 the Fourth Congressional District was responsible for 16.8 million tons of steam coal purchased by 31 electric utility companies located in 18 states. The majority of this steam coal production came from Logan and Mingo Counties with lesser tonnages from the other counties which comprise the Fourth Congressional District. In 1985, utilities purchased 11.4 million tons and in 1986, 15.3 million tons of Fourth District coal.

"This data shows that our low-sulfur southern West Virginia coal is still the fuel of choice for many electric utility companies," Rahall said. "It can be expected we will continue to witness increased demand for this type of coal in the future as more generating capacity is put on line."

According to Rahall, Fourth District coal was sold in states as far ranging as Massachusetts to Florida and Delaware to Mississippi. The top utility company purchasers were Carolina Power and Light, North Carolina; Appalachian Power, West Virginia; Dayton Power and Light, Ohio; Virginia Electric and Power, Virginia; and Georgia Power, Georgia.

Rahall noted that the Fourth Congressional District produced 2.3% of the total amount of steam coal purchased by electric utility powerplants located in the United States during 1987. The tonnages involved represent only domestic sales to electric powerplants and do not include production of metallurgical coal used in steelmaking or coal exported to international markets.