

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS W.VA. BIG WINNER IN RECLAMATION MONEY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that West Virginia is in line to receive \$28.3 million in abandoned mine reclamation funds for the current fiscal year.

"West Virginia has been approved to receive more abandoned mine reclamation funds than any other state in the Nation for fiscal year 1988," Rahall said. "The beauty of this program is that through the reclamation of these old abandoned coal mine lands we are putting people to work while improving the quality of our environment."

According to Rahall, while the Office of Surface Mining has set aside \$28.3 million for West Virginia, the State must still obtain federal approval for specific reclamation construction projects. Once this is done, the State can begin to contract out the reclamation work.

"As I understand the situation, almost 30% of the funding will be for projects proposed for Logan, Mingo, Raleigh and Wyoming Counties in my Congressional District," Rahall noted.

Rahall, through his position as chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, has aggressively pursued levels of Congressional appropriations for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation program. The fiscal year 1988 West Virginia reclamation fund allocation represents an increase of \$12.9 million over last year's level.

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