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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1988 CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT 202-225-3452

RAHALL SAYS WEST VIRGINIA GETS \$24 MILLION FOR AML RECLAMATION PROJECTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced today that the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement has awarded an abandoned mine reclamation construction grant of \$24.1 million to the State of West Virginia.

Rahall said U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Don Hodel has informed him that West Virginia's grant is one of the largest given a state.

"The \$24.1 million award means that West Virginia is now in a position to restore land and water resources affected by abandoned mines." Rahall said. "It is also a sign that we on the federal level are fighting for funds to keep West Virginia beautiful for generations to come by mitigating the health, safety and environmental threats posed by orphaned coal mine lands."

The grant will go towards projects in 15 West Virginia counties.

Listed below are the AML projects to be undertaken:

logan County - Omar; Accoville; Baber

Mingo County - Borderland

Gob Stilgel

Raleigh County - Berry; Raleigh Wyoming County - Covel; Iroquois Barbour County - Dorsey Grower

Fayette County - Longacre; Mahan No. 2; Milburn; Sawyer; Mt. Zion

Baptist Church

Greenbrier County - Marfrance

Harrison County - Belcastro; Gloria Lee; Railroad Trestke; Shipplett

Kanawha County - Tucker; Campbell; Graley

Marion County - Higginbotham; Dakota

Monongalia County - New Hill; Superior; Airport

Ohio County - Glen's Run

Preston County - Ruthbelle; Muddy Creek; Kyle

Randolph County - Beaver Creek

Upshur County - Pringle