



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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FAA Makes Initial Decision on Bluefield Flight Service Station

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced the Federal Aviation Administration has decided to keep the Bluefield Airport's Flight Service Station (FSS) open part time for the present.

"I commend the FAA's decision to maintain a part time flight service operation at the Bluefield Airport. The weather conditions and the area's topography are unique enough to warrant this attention," Rahall said. "Pilots, passengers, and commerce will be served by this decision."

The FAA has been reviewing the operations of the Bluefield FSS as part of a consolidation of flight service operations which will be based in Elkins, West Virginia. Rahall has worked with the FAA to convince them of the unusual weather and topographic qualities of the area which could pose a safety threat to those in air service.

Beginning January 16, 1994, the Bluefield office will be manned from 5:25am until 8:55pm.

"The FAA's decision to keep the office open as a part time operation will have minimal impact on the area's flight services as the vast majority of the current flight schedule of the airport falls within the proposed hours of operations," Rahall said.

The future of the Bluefield station will depend upon whether the funding necessary is provided for FAA supplemental stations.

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