



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 28, 1994

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER  
Acting Press Secretary  
Phone: (202) 225-3452

**RAHALL SPELLS RELIEF FOR SMALL WV COAL OPERATORS**

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that the U.S. Department of the Interior awarded \$140,000 to West Virginia for the Small Coal Operator's Assistance Program (SOAP).

"This \$140,000 for SOAP will help West Virginia's smaller coal mining operations with the expense of preforming the research required for mining permit applications," said Rahall. "Without assistance from SOAP the cost of obtaining the necessary data can prove too much for smaller businesses."

In 1990, concerned that most small coal operations weren't being reached by SOAP, Rahall, then-Chairman of the House Mining Subcommittee, raised SOAP's annual production limit from 100,000 to 300,000 tons, allowing more operators to qualify for assistance. "With the 100,000 ton limit SOAP wasn't reaching the mining operations it was intended to help, said Rahall. "With that change in law now in effect, this grant for the SOAP program will bring relief to small West Virginia coal operators."

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# OSM FACT SHEET

U.S. Department of the Interior      Office of Surface Mining

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MAR 1 1994

OSM AWARDS WEST VIRGINIA \$140,000 FOR

SMALL COAL OPERATORS ASSISTANCE

West Virginia has received a \$140,000 grant from the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) for the state's Small Coal Operator's Assistance Program (SOAP).

SOAP helps coal operators producing less than 300,000 tons annually with the costs of obtaining data for their mining permit applications. The information includes technical evaluations of the probable hydrological consequences of mining and the results of test borings or core samplings.

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OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

## FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To: <i>Don Hein</i>	From: <i>Nancy Smith</i>
Dept/Agency: <i>9061</i>	Phone #: <i>208-2565</i>
Fax #: <i>225-4627</i>	Fax #:

NSN 7540-01-517-7906

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*Jennifer -  
Rahall was  
responsible for  
the 300,000 tons  
limit in  
1990 legislation.  
It used to  
be 100,000 tons  
which was  
too low  
and didn't help  
anyone. IZ*





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