



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 1994CONTACT: KENT KEYSER
Acting Press Secretary
Phone: (202) 225-3452**HOUSE PASSES FINAL ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS**
Millions Included for West Virginia Water Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Funding for a number of critical southern West Virginia water resource projects was approved by the House of Representatives today as part of a House-Senate agreement on the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Bill for FY95, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) announced.

Included in the measure is \$1.5 million to continue a pilot project created by Rahall that directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help small communities with their water supply and wastewater treatment projects.

Other Rahall initiated projects included in the bill are: \$200,000 for a feasibility study of the Cabell/Wayne Counties River Port District, \$400,000 for the study of and planning for trailhead facilities at several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in southern West Virginia, and \$400,000 for the Tug Valley Greenway study. Also included in the bill is \$805,000 added by Senator Robert C. Byrd for development at the Huntington Harris Riverfront Park.

The Rahall sponsored pilot project instructs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist local communities in the 16 counties of the Third Congressional district in the design and construction of water treatment and water supply facilities. The \$1.5 million supplements \$3.5 million that was appropriated for the pilot project last year.

"This project presents a unique opportunity to revitalize the Corps of Engineers by expanding its mission into a bold new frontier of public and community service, an area in dire need of its expertise," Rahall observed.

The House also agreed to fund Phase III of the West Virginia Port Development Study, which would consist of an Environmental Impact Assessment and the development of a master plan for building public ports at several locations along the Ohio River. The Cabell/Wayne Counties River Port District would receive \$200,000 of this funding for evaluation of a site in this region. Also included was \$350,000 in additional funding for the West Virginia Comprehensive feasibility studies at the Virginia Point, Parkersburg and Vienna, and Point Pleasant riverfronts.

"Public ports can be a tremendous asset to a region's economic development," Rahall remarked. "The Cabell/Wayne area's central location among U.S. manufacturing activity along with its other advantages make it a prime location for the development of a port."

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According to Rahall, the Corps of Engineers will use the \$400,000 he included in the bill to conduct a study and develop a plan for trailhead facilities at several Corps facilities in southwestern West Virginia, including Beech Fork Lake, East Lynn Lake, R.D. Bailey Lake and the Tug Fork Flood Control projects.

"These facilities would serve a dual purpose," Rahall noted. "The need to expand the area's coal-based economy by facilitating recreational tourism and the pressing need to provide managed outlets for off-road recreational vehicle users."

The \$400,000 in funding for the Tug Valley Greenway study was included in the bill by Rahall to facilitate a the Memorandum of Understanding between the Corps of Engineers and the Town of Matewan to devise an economic revitalization action plan in conjunction with the Corp's flood control project along the Tug Fork River.

Included in the bill as well were Corps of Engineers general investigations and planning projects: Kanawha River Navigation, \$680,000 for investigations; Marmet Locks and Dam, \$4.5 million for planning; North Branch Potomac River Environmental Restoration in West Virginia and Maryland, \$100,000 for investigations; and Tygart River Comprehensive, \$700,000 for planning.

In addition, the following West Virginia projects were approved funding for construction: Levisa and Tug Forks and Upper Cumberland River (also Virginia and Kentucky) \$53 million; Moorefield, \$3.8 million; Petersburg, \$4.2 million; Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, \$13 million; and Winfield Locks and Dam, \$51 million. Senator Byrd also included \$500,000 for non-structural work at Hatfield Bottom and \$250,000 for non-structural flood control work along the Tug Fork in upper Mingo County.

Rahall added that the bill also includes funding for the following Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance projects for the coming fiscal year:

Beech Fork Lake, WV	\$778,000
Bluestone Lake, WV	\$4.09 million
Burnsville, WV	\$1.27 million
East Lynn Lake, WV	\$1.17 million
Elk River Harbor, WV	\$323,000
Elkins, WV	\$7,000
Kanawha River Locks and Dams, WV	\$11.2 million
R.D. Bailey Lake, WV	\$1.29 million
Stonewall Jackson Lake, WV	\$904,000
Summersville, Lake, WV	\$1.34 million
Sutton Lake, WV	\$1.54 million
Tygart Lake, WV	\$1.95 million

The Senate must approve the conference agreement before it will be sent to the President.