



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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RAHALL PUSHES FOR RALEIGH CO. CLEAN COAL PROJECT
Competition Heavy for \$545 Million in Federal Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today called upon the U.S. Department of Energy to consider the advantages of a Clean Coal Technology project proposed for Eccles, in Raleigh County.

"This project proposal holds great promise as being a cost-effective, versatile and environmentally beneficial method to meeting just about any new standard promulgated under pending Clean Air Act legislation," Rahall told Jack Siegel, the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Coal Technology.

The Energy Department is currently examining 47 project proposals in its third round of competition under the Clean Coal Technology Program. Approximately \$545 million in federal funds will be available to support about 10 to 15 projects. Projects proposed during the first and second rounds for West Virginia did not succeed.

The Eccles project, proposed by Westmoreland Energy, Inc., and Energotechnology Corp., involves what Rahall termed "an extremely novel approach" in integrating a simple coal cleaning plant and a conventional boiler design with a second, smaller Fluidized Bed Combustor boiler and a Turbine/Generator. The anticipated result would be sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate emission levels which are lower than those required under the New Source Performance Standards. Moreover, the technology could be utilized in both retrofit and repowering applications. The estimated cost of the project is \$331 million with 36.5% of the cost proposed to be paid under the Clean Coal Technology Program.

"The plans are to use regionally mined coal for this project," Rahall said. "This gives us a real good chance of putting a lot of unemployed miners back to work."

The deadline for the Energy Department to select projects is January 1, 1989. The Eccles project is competing with two others proposed for West Virginia locations: A Houston, Texas, proposal to build a gasification plant in Pocahontas County, and a Charleston-based proposal to manufacture "coal logs" for use in fireplaces.