



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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WEST VIRGINIA ENTITLED TO EXTRA \$7 MILLION UNDER RAHALL BILL
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Effort Could Top \$29.5 Million

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- According to an analysis conducted by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), West Virginia stands to gain up to \$7 million more than it otherwise will receive in abandoned mine reclamation funds next year if legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) was enacted.

The Rahall bill, the "Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act", passed the U.S. House of Representatives by an overwhelming margin last autumn and is now pending before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The legislation seeks to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program under which grants are made to states like West Virginia to mitigate coalfield problems presented by burning refuse piles, old mine shafts, contaminated water supplies, landslides and subsidence.

According to the OSM analysis, next year West Virginia will be entitled to receive \$22,586,510 under the existing law. Under the Rahall bill, however, the Mountain State would be eligible for as much as \$29,522,707.

"With the additional funding provided by my bill, coalfield communities will be in a position to address one of the most critical issues we face, that of contaminated water supplies," Rahall said. "My legislation not only delivers the funds to build treatment systems, it provides explicit authority for these types of projects as well."

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