



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST VIRGINIA AWARDED \$2,354,596 FOR ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Rep. Nick Rahall, (D-WV), announced today that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining has awarded a \$2,354,596 grant to West Virginia.

Rahall, chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Reclamation, with legislative jurisdiction over OSM, disclosed that the money pays for all of West Virginia's expenses to operate its abandoned mine lands program for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1991. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was passed in 1977 to reclaim abandoned mines, restore the land and water resources affected by them, and improve the quality of life for mining states and their citizens.

"This funding will assist the state in planning and designing abandoned mine land reclamation construction projects," Rahall said. "That is just what this program is really all about; producing jobs and a better coalfield environment."

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OSM NEWS RELEASE

U. S. Department of the Interior

Office of Surface Mining

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

For Release FEB 12 1991

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OSM AWARDS WEST VIRGINIA \$2,354,596 GRANT
FOR ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced today that the State of West Virginia has been awarded a \$2,354,596 grant by Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) to administer its abandoned mine lands program.

"The Bush Administration will continue to emphasize the reclamation of mines that were abandoned before the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was passed in 1977," Lujan said. "We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with coal states and the coal industry to make sure reclamation remains a high-priority element in the modern coal mining process."

"Today, West Virginia has a positive record of using the surface mining law to reclaim abandoned mines, to restore the land and water resources affected by them, and to improve the quality of life for its citizens," Lujan said.

OSM Director Harry M. Snyder said reclamation grants are fundamental to the mission of the national surface mining program. "Restoring abandoned mine lands is one of the most important things we do," Snyder said. "This reclamation grant supports West Virginia's reclamation program and strengthens OSM's partnership with the state."

The \$2,354,596 grant announced today pays all of West Virginia's expenses to operate its AML program for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1991. The expenses include transportation, equipment, and supplies.

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"This funding will assist the state in planning and designing abandoned mine land reclamation construction projects," Rohall said. "And that's what this program is really all about. Producing jobs and a better coalfield environment."

*Rohall, chairman of
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