



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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**MILLIONS IN ABANDONED MINE PROJECTS FLOW TO W.VA.
Rahall Says \$14 Million Means Jobs And Protection For Citizens**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The federal Office of Surface Mining's release of \$14 million in abandoned mine reclamation project construction funds to West Virginia today will benefit the coalfield environment and generate jobs in the State, U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) said today.

Rahall, who used his position as House Mining Subcommittee Chairman to successfully gain the enactment of legislation last year to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program, noted that according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics formula, every million dollars spent on construction projects such as these generates 17 jobs on-site, 14 jobs off-site and 28 ancillary jobs.

"This \$14 million means 238 direct construction jobs and 196 other jobs related to the projects," Rahall said. "Obviously, these jobs generate benefits throughout our communities."

Under the program, after the funds are approved by the federal government the State Division of Energy is charged with contracting out the projects. The money will be used to address abandoned mine problems that threaten the health and safety of coalfield residents such as burning refuse piles, impoundments, old mine openings.

According to Rahall, 35% of the funding will be dedicated to reclamation construction projects in the Fourth Congressional District. Two of the largest projects approved are for McDowell County: \$2,122,460 for the Kimball Refuse Pile project and \$1,700,000 for the Vivian Refuse Pile.

Rahall said that there had been some concern the federal Office of Surface Mining was holding the funding hostage due to the controversy surrounding the State's efforts to finance the surface mining regulatory program at the Division of Energy.

"I want to commend OSM Director Harry Snyder for moving forward with approving this most important funding for West Virginia," Rahall stated. "He recognizes that the health and safety of coalfield residents, and job creation in this region, is something that you simply do not play politics with."

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The approved projects are:

Bear Run Refuse, Gilmer Co., \$2,200,000

Cedar Grove (Austin) Portals, Kanawha Co., \$260,000

Denver St. Mine Drainage, Harrison Co., \$195,000

Dobbins Slide, Barbour Co., \$270,000

Douglas Highway, Tucker Co., \$1,500,000

Eskdale Portals, Kanawha Co., \$123,000

Glade Run II, Preston Co., \$200,000

Greggsville AMD, Ohio Co., \$993,375

Hartford "B", Mason Co., \$53,000

Kimball Refuse Pile, McDowell Co., \$2,122,460

Noseman Branch Refuse Pile, Wyoming Co., \$859,665

Richford Portals, Kanawha Co., \$300,000

Roaring Creek Highwall, Nicholas Co., \$1,411,000

Rockdale Tipple, Brook Co., \$15,000

Saltwell Drainage, Harrison Co., \$275,000

Stark Drainage, Harrison Co., \$100,000

Stonewood (Henning) Drainage, Harrison Co., \$100,000

Tunnelton Gob, Preston Co., \$1,500,000

Vivian Refuse Pile, McDowell Co., \$1,700,000

War (Lockhart) Drainage, McDowell Co., \$255,000