



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 25, 1991**

**CONTACT: STEVE SPINA**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3452**

**RAHALL URGES CORPS TO MAKE BARBOURSVILLE SEWAGE LAGOON A PRIORITY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today urged the Army Corps of Engineers to make the Barboursville City's Sewage Treatment Lagoon a top priority, and told District Engineer Colonel Van Epps that the grave danger imposed on the facility made it eligible for Federal involvement under Section 14 of the Flood Control Act.

"I urgently request that you take administrative action to request funding for the Barboursville project," wrote Rahall. "I also urge you to give it the highest priority assignment provided for under that Section, since the possible breach of the sewage treatment lagoon is to be avoided at all costs."

Rahall quoted preliminary cost estimates placing the cost at \$305,000, and that the city would be required to pay a local share of \$68,750, but he pointed out that a thorough study of reconstruction needs as well as firm estimates of the costs would still need to be done by the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We cannot allow this facility to just fall into the Lagoon," urged Rahall. "The waste water needs of southern West Virginia are already dire enough without us allowing further damage to already existing facilities."

Rep. Rahall is a ranking Member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee and sits on the Water Resources Subcommittee.

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NICK J. RAHALL II  
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

2104 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3452

815 FIFTH AVENUE  
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701  
(304) 522-NICK

110½ MAIN STREET  
BECKLEY, WV 25801  
(304) 252-5000

1005 FEDERAL BUILDING  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701  
(304) 325-6222

R K BUILDING  
LOGAN, WV 25601  
(304) 752-4934

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 24, 1991

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Colonel James Van Epps  
District Engineer  
Army Corps Of Engineers  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Dear Colonel Van Epps:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your April 16, 1991 letter to the Honorable William Plyburn, Mayor of Barboursville, WV, located in the 4th Congressional District which I represent, updating me on the streambank erosion and flooding damage that occurred to the City's Sewage Treatment Lagoon. As you know, I have been working with the City in an effort to resolve this problem for some time.

It is my understanding that during two site visits, your Geotechnical staff found that recent storms caused deep seated slope failures along an outside Mud River bend, which failure extends from approximately the sewage lagoon embankment crest and beneath the sheet pile wall to the Mud River Channel. I understand that a 150 foot segment of the sheet pile wall has been misaligned and displaced by these failures.

More importantly, it is my understanding that the sewage treatment facility is immediately endangered by continuing failures. Lagoon breaching could occur during the next storm or high water event, necessitating bank protection and reconstruction of the distressed segment of sheet pile wall and failed embankment.

I believe that this streambank erosion and flood damage problem qualifies for Federal involvement under Section 14 of the Flood Control Act, and this letter is to urgently request that you take administrative action to request funding for the Barboursville project. I also urge you to give it the highest priority assignment provided for under that Section, since the possible breach of the sewage treatment lagoon is to be avoided at all costs.

It is my understanding that very preliminary estimates place the cost of the reconstruction at \$305,000, and that the non-Federal sponsor (the City of Barboursville) will be required to pay a local share of \$68,750. It is my further understanding that a thorough study of the reconstruction needs as well as firm estimates of the costs at

Colonel James Van Epps  
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Barboursville's Sewage Treatment Lagoon will be made by the Corps of Engineers before actual reconstruction is begun.

I will look forward to an early response to my request for Corps assistance in this matter.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Rahall", written in a cursive style.

NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Member of Congress

NJR/bk