



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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RAHALL ENDORSES CLEAN COAL PROJECT FOR WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today endorsed a proposal to construct a project in Raleigh County aimed at demonstrating an advanced coal combustion technology under the Clean Coal Technology (CCT) Program.

"It is time for southern West Virginia to get a piece of the clean coal technology program action," Rahall said of the proposal for a 200 megawatt coal-fired powerplant to be located at Eccles.

The CCT Program is a government-industry co-funded effort to demonstrate a new generation of innovative coal processes in a series of full-scale 'showcase' facilities. To date, three rounds of projects have received financing under the program. The Eccles Project is competing with 32 other proposals in the Round 4 project solicitation. The Energy Department expects to select 15 of these projects for \$570 million in available funding.

The proposal, submitted by ABB Energy Ventures, Inc., Westmoreland Energy, Inc., and Energotechnology Corp. would utilize a process which integrates coal cleaning into a two boiler Pulverized Coal-fired/Fluidized Bed powerplant that can reduce emissions for both electric utility powerplant retrofit and new plant applications.

In a letter to Energy Secretary James Watkins, Rahall wrote: "I cannot emphasize enough the merits of this proposal and the technological expertise of the applicants and am sure that these facts will become readily apparent to those personnel you have entrusted to review the CCT submissions."

He added: "In this regard, I would point out that this project has already been examined by DOE during CCT Round 3. However, it is my understanding the proposal was bypassed in favor of another project originally slated for West Virginia, a gasification plant, which after its selection by DOE was immediately moved to Tallahassee, Florida, and will be fired by natural gas, not coal. Naturally, we in West Virginia feel slighted by that maneuver. Moreover, I think you would agree that the purpose of the CCT program is to demonstrate clean coal, not natural gas, combustion technologies."