

U.S. Congressman

**Nick Rahall**

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 4, 1992

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**HOUSE PANEL TO CONSIDER RAHALL NEW RIVER BILL**

*Wild and Scenic Designation Being Promoted*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall's (D-WV) measure to ~~thwart the proposed APCO powerline by designating~~ a segment of the New River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be the subject of a Congressional hearing on June 30th.

"Our intent is to preserve the rural characteristics of the New River valley. To insure that the New River stays like it is, wild and scenic, for the benefit of the people of southern West Virginia," said Rahall.

The hearing will be conducted by the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. Rahall is a senior member of the panel.

Expected to appear before the Subcommittee to present testimony in support of the bill are State Delegate Mary Pearl Compton (Monroe), Jim McNeely of Bluefield and Robert Zacher of Lindside.

"I am pleased to be able to testify before the Congress to tell them that we want the New River to stay like it is, not despoiled by some powerline," Compton said.

Under the "New River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 1992" the Secretary of the Interior would conduct a study to determine whether the river segment is eligible for inclusion under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and report to the Congress within a one-year period.

The designation of a river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act normally entails a two-step process, starting with enactment of legislation to require an eligibility study. Based on the study's findings, Congress then considers legislation to designate the river as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to preserve, in their free-flowing condition, river segments which possess outstanding scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, historic and cultural values. In West Virginia, a segment of the Bluestone River is designated as a National Scenic River while both the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the New River Gorge National River designations include protections from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. All three rivers were the subject of Rahall sponsored legislation.

"I'd like to see this bill move at the same velocity as the New River's spring flow rate," Rahall said in anticipating quick committee action on the measure once the hearing process is completed.



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