

U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 10, 1992

CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

WEST VIRGINIA RECEIVES \$30.5 MILLION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- West Virginia has provided the \$5.45 million in matching funds and will receive \$30.5 million in federal funds for wastewater treatment in 1992, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

The money will be put into the State's revolving loan fund and loaned to communities able to afford them. The State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) is administered by the State, and loans money to local communities who are in need of wastewater treatment facilities.

"Forty-four of West Virginia's smallest communities are forced to dump their raw sewage into the nearest river because of inadequate wastewater facilities," said Rahall. "While I am happy to see West Virginia receive this funding, I think much more needs to be done."

Rahall pointed out that even though the funding seems like a good amount, people must realize this money will only be loaned to communities and will have to be paid back. Rahall has introduced legislation to restore the federal wastewater grant program, which was abolished in 1987. That program would give local communities grants instead of loan for sewage treatment facilities.

"Our neediest communities cannot afford to pay back the interest on a wastewater loan much less the principal," urged Rahall. "And although some might say restoring the grants program is too costly, I would respond that it will be too expensive not to restore the grants. We lose millions of dollars each year in health care costs and lost productivity due to unclean water."

A recent study showed that since 1972 \$1 billion in federal grants has been awarded to West Virginia for water and sewer projects, but still half the State's residents still have no sewage treatment systems. The study estimated that \$2.4 billion would be needed to bring West Virginia's wastewater facilities in line with federal guidelines.

Rahall, a senior member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee and a member of the Water Resources Subcommittee, said in 1988, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated the United States had \$84 billion worth of unmet wastewater needs.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- West Virginia will receive \$30.5 million in federal funds for wastewater treatment in 1992 if the State can provide 20 percent in matching funds, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV). *change this accordingly.*

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MARCH 4, 1992

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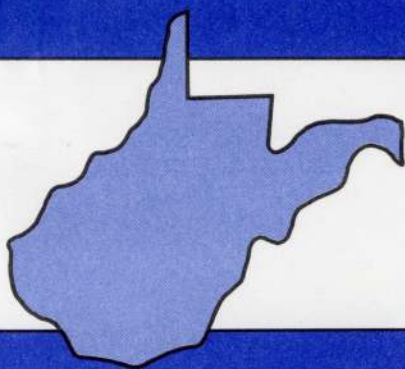
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A recent study showed that since 1972 \$1 billion in federal grants has been awarded to West Virginia for water and sewer projects; however, half the State's residents still have no sewage treatment systems.

Rahall, a senior member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee and a member of the Water Resources Subcommittee, has asked the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, to due a study to determine just how much the lack of decent wastewater facilities is affecting the productivity and health of West Virginians.

Rahall added that in 1988, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated the United States had \$84 billion worth of unmet wastewater needs. Another study predicted that West Virginia alone would need \$2.4 billion to bring its facilities up to acceptable standards.



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 to you
 how
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 work