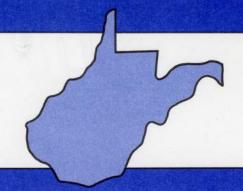
PRESS RELEASE



V.S. Congressman Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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GILBERT MAKES FINAL PLANS FOR NEW SEWAGE SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), who has been working closely with the town of Gilbert in trying to secure a new sewage system for that community, today announced that Gilbert is well on its way to receiving federal funding for the project.

The Congressman disclosed today that Gilbert has been selected to submit a pre-application form for funding to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). While this is not final approval, it is tantamount to securing the necessary funds for construction.

"The funding from U.S. EDA [Public Works Impact Projects] will come in at just under \$1 million," said Rahall. "Region II Planning and Development Council will be submitting the pre-application form to the Economic Development Administration, along with applications to the West Virginia Water Development Authority for a loan, and an application to the Governor for a small cities block grant to complete the sewage project's funding."

Rahall, who is a member of the Water Resources Subcommittee, has been working with a number of local communities in southern West Virginia in an effort to secure water sewage projects.

A recent study on water sewage in West Virginia estimated that half the State's 1.8 million residents still have no sewage treatment systems to serve them. West Virginia would need \$2.4 billion worth of improvements to meet EPA standards.

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