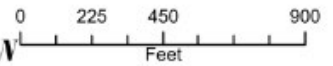




Leemaster Portals  
 Maintenance #21104  
 Buchanan County, VA





# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## Virginia Department of Energy

Washington Building / 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638  
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237  
[www.energy.virginia.gov](http://www.energy.virginia.gov)

July 29, 2024

RE: Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project; Agency Consultations

To Whom It May Concern:

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) section of the Virginia Department of Energy's Mined Land Repurposing Program is notifying agencies of a project for 2024. In order to prepare environmental documents for the project, we request that you review and provide any comments to us by August 28, 2024.

### **LEEMASTER PORTALS MAINTENANCE- #21104**

The Leemaster Portals Maintenance Project #21104 is located off Rt. 619 Leemaster Dr/Dawning's Rd. in Buchanan County. The GPS coordinates for the site is 37°10' 26"N, 81°57'12"W. The site is located in problem area VA-0408, Rattlesnake Branch. Work at the site was initially completed as the Leemaster Portals Project (FY 97). Since completion of the project, drainage from the mine works has increased causing drainage issues for an occupied dwelling. The Leemaster Portals Maintenance Project will dewater a P2 Dangerous Impoundment and, if deemed necessary, close two (2) P2 Portals that could not be accessed during the initial project.

The AML features are a result of underground and coal processing operations that were conducted prior to August 3, 1977. There have been no permanent program activities to impact these features since abandonment of the mine site. There is no continuing responsibility for any individual, firm, or organization to reclaim this feature.

Strict erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented during construction and all disturbed areas will be promptly re-vegetated using seed mixtures agreed upon by state and federal agencies. The Portals will be closed under the Time of Year Restriction as set forth by USFWS. There will be no historic properties affected. It is anticipated that there will be no impacts to flood plains and/or "Waters of the U.S." If for any reason the scope of work is changed during the design process that would result in impacts to "Waters of the U.S.", as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 230.3(s), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be contacted for a jurisdictional determination and all applicable regulatory permits will be obtained prior to performing the work.

The site location maps identifying the AML features to be reclaimed can be found on our website at <https://energy.virginia.gov/coal/mined-land-repurposing/abandoned-mine-land.shtml>

Your review of these proposed projects will be appreciated. Responses may be sent to [heather.mcdonald-taylor@energy.virginia.gov](mailto:heather.mcdonald-taylor@energy.virginia.gov) and [hope.hurd@energy.virginia.gov](mailto:hope.hurd@energy.virginia.gov). Please call Heather McDonald-Taylor at 276-639-2905 if you have questions or are not able to respond by August 28, 2024.

Sincerely,

*Heather McDonald-Taylor*

Heather McDonald-Taylor  
Senior Project Manager  
Abandoned Mine Land Program