



VIRGINIA  
**Energy**

# ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT 2025

*ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

# LEADERSHIP

## **GLENN DAVIS**

*DIRECTOR OF VIRGINIA ENERGY*  
*GLENN.DAVIS@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **LARRY CORKEY**

*POLICY & PLANNING MANAGER*  
*LARRY.CORKEY@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **W.R. GAY**

*INTERNAL AUDIT & FOIA MANAGER*  
*WILLIE.GAY@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **CLARA HARRIS**

*CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER*  
*CLARA.HARRIS@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **JULIANNE SZYPER**

*DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF VIRGINIA ENERGY*  
*JULIANNE.SZYPER@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **SUMI LANNEAU**

*CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER*  
*SUMI.LANNEAU@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **VINCE MAIDEN**

*DIRECTOR OF STATE ENERGY OFFICE*  
*VINCE.MAIDEN@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

## **MIKE SKIFFINGTON**

*CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER*  
*MIKE.SKIFFINGTON@ENERGY.VIRGINIA.GOV*

# CONTACT US

## **CALL US**

**Richmond**  
(804) 692-3200

**Big Stone Gap**  
(276) 523-8100

**Charlottesville**  
(276) 523-8100

## **LOCATIONS**

Washington Building, 8th Floor  
1100 Bank Street Richmond,  
Virginia 23219

3405 Mountain Empire Road  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

900 Natural Resources Drive  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

## **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

[vaenergy@energy.virginia.gov](mailto:vaenergy@energy.virginia.gov)

## **PRESS CONTACT**

[press@energy.virginia.gov](mailto:press@energy.virginia.gov)

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# VIRGINIA ENERGY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reduced **UNNECESSARY REGULATORY BURDENS BY 70%**, accelerating project timelines, investment decisions, and workforce growth statewide.

Launched the **\$79.5 MILLION COAL MINE METHANE CAPTURE & UTILIZATION PROGRAM**, advancing large-scale methane reduction and economic revitalization in SWVA.

Launched the **\$1.3 MILLION SPARK YOUTH WORKFORCE PILOT PROGRAM**, expanding paid work-based learning, certifications, and energy career pathways for Virginians ages 14–25.

Expanded the **VIRGINIA CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION BANK**, accelerating financing for high-impact public-private energy projects statewide.

Funded a new **ENERGY-CENTRIC UAS CENTER FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**, a multi-site testbed for resilient unmanned systems, applied research, and workforce training.

Invested in **SMALL MODULAR REACTOR CONTROL-ROOM SIMULATORS AT GMU, UVA WISE, AND VTECH**, expanding hands-on nuclear training and workforce readiness.

Funded planning for a **VIRGINIA-BASED RESEARCH REACTOR**, expanding in-state capabilities for advanced materials research and nuclear workforce development.

Strengthened **VIRGINIA'S LEADERSHIP IN FUSION ENERGY** by supporting progress toward the world's first commercial fusion power plant in Chesterfield County.

Launched **VIRGINIA ENERGY CONNECT**, creating a centralized platform that simplifies access to energy rebates, incentives, and technical resources statewide.

# VIRGINIA ENERGY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS *Cont.*

Completed **LARGE-SCALE GEOLOGICAL MAPPING AND HAZARD ASSESSMENTS**, strengthening infrastructure planning, public safety, and mineral-based economic opportunities.

Reclaimed **THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF FORMER MINE LANDS** while maintaining zero offsite impacts across permitted operations.

Supported **WORKFORCE INITIATIVES INCLUDING MISSION TOMORROW, ATOMS FOR APPALACHIA, AND THE ENERGY DELTA LAB**, aligning education pipelines with high-demand energy, mining, and geology careers.

Invested **\$1.5 MILLION TO LAUNCH THE VIRGINIA RESEARCH AI DATA CENTER LAB** at GMU, advancing grid-integrated digital infrastructure and workforce development.

Invested **\$3 MILLION TO DEPLOY A 4-MEGAWATT, 4-HOUR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM** in Caroline County, expanding grid capacity and reliability for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative members.

Awarded **THREE \$250,000 HYDROGEN HUB PLANNING GRANTS** to advance hydrogen production, storage, and end-use planning in coalfield communities.

Worked with private industry and higher education partners to launch a **FUSION INNOVATION HUB**, supporting fusion commercialization, supplier readiness, and workforce development.

Secured **\$22.7 MILLION IN BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FUNDING** to accelerate abandoned mine land reclamation and enable larger, multi-year redevelopment projects.

Announced a **MULTI-COMPANY INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP TO IDENTIFY NEW NATURAL GAS GENERATION AND PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE** needed to meet unprecedented load growth tied to manufacturing and data centers.

# STATE ENERGY OFFICE



Virginia Energy is tasked with developing the plan for Virginia's energy future. Our experts work closely with the Governor's office to ensure that Virginia continues to have reliable, affordable and clean power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

# A HOLISTIC STRATEGY FOR BUILDING VIRGINIA'S RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND INCREASINGLY CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Virginia Energy's integrated suite of programs addresses critical aspects of our energy landscape and positions Virginia as a global leader in energy innovation and technology.

- ✓ **VIRGINIA CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION BANK**

Accelerating clean energy projects through innovative financing.

- ✓ **VIRGINIA POWER INNOVATION PROGRAM**

Funding advanced technologies and grid modernization.

- ✓ **VIRGINIA ENERGY CONNECT**

A one-stop hub for navigating energy incentives in Virginia

- ✓ **SPARK YOUTH WORKFORCE PILOT PROGRAM**

Preparing the next generation for high-demand energy careers

- ✓ **COMMONWEALTH'S ENERGY SECURITY PLAN**

Providing a strategy to safeguard energy systems & ensure reliability.

- ✓ **DEMAND RESPONSE**

Reducing load during peak demand to enhance grid reliability.

# ENERGY IN THE SPOTLIGHT: 2025 INDUSTRY HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS

2025 was a consequential year for energy policy, infrastructure, and investment, with Virginia at the center of many national and regional developments.

Major policy decisions, technology advancements, infrastructure investments, and workforce developments reshaped the energy landscape. The industry headlines highlighted here reflect a year of rapid change, rising demand, and renewed focus on reliability, innovation, and long-term energy security across all energy sources.



Virginia takes steps to bring advanced nuclear reactor to Wise County



Virginia SCC approves proposal for natural gas plant in Chesterfield



Virginia's Nuclear Industry Unveils 2025-2029 Strategic Plan to Power the Commonwealth's Future



Google announces power purchase agreement with Commonwealth Fusion



Virginia: Welcome to the future state



Five years in, VCEA still gets the problem and solution wrong



Virginia Tech receives \$1.3 million grant to revolutionize energy industries in Appalachia



Area Development ranks Virginia No. 1 for workforce training



# VIRGINIA CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION BANK

Powered by Virginia Energy

With multi-stage funding interventions, a robust public-private partnership network, and trusted industry expertise, we help transform bold clean energy ideas into real infrastructure.

**PROJECTS REVIEWED**

100

**AMOUNT FUNDED**

\$18.9M

**FUNDS LEVERAGED**

\$24.3M

**ENERGY GENERATION**

40.13 MW

**ENERGY STORAGE  
CAPACITY**

32 MWh

**NEW JOBS**

300



Funded by VCEIB, the NuScale SMR Control Room Simulator at George Mason University is the only 12-module simulator in the nation.

# VIRGINIA POWER INNOVATION PROGRAM

Through strategic grants to industry and academic partners, the Virginia Power Innovation Program (VPIP) accelerates nuclear, hydrogen, and other cutting edge energy technologies that strengthen Virginia's energy grid, expand domestic manufacturing, and support a cleaner, more secure energy future.

## **NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR STUDY**

Funding a planning project to assess the feasibility, design, and implementation strategy for a nuclear research reactor in Virginia.

## **VIRGINIA CENTER FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS & RELIABILITY (VA-CNMR)**

Funding the development of a collaboration model for a research center focused on materials degradation in non-aqueous environments critical to next generation reactor systems.

## **NUCLEAR WORKFORCE & SUPPLY CHAIN ACCELERATION PROGRAM**

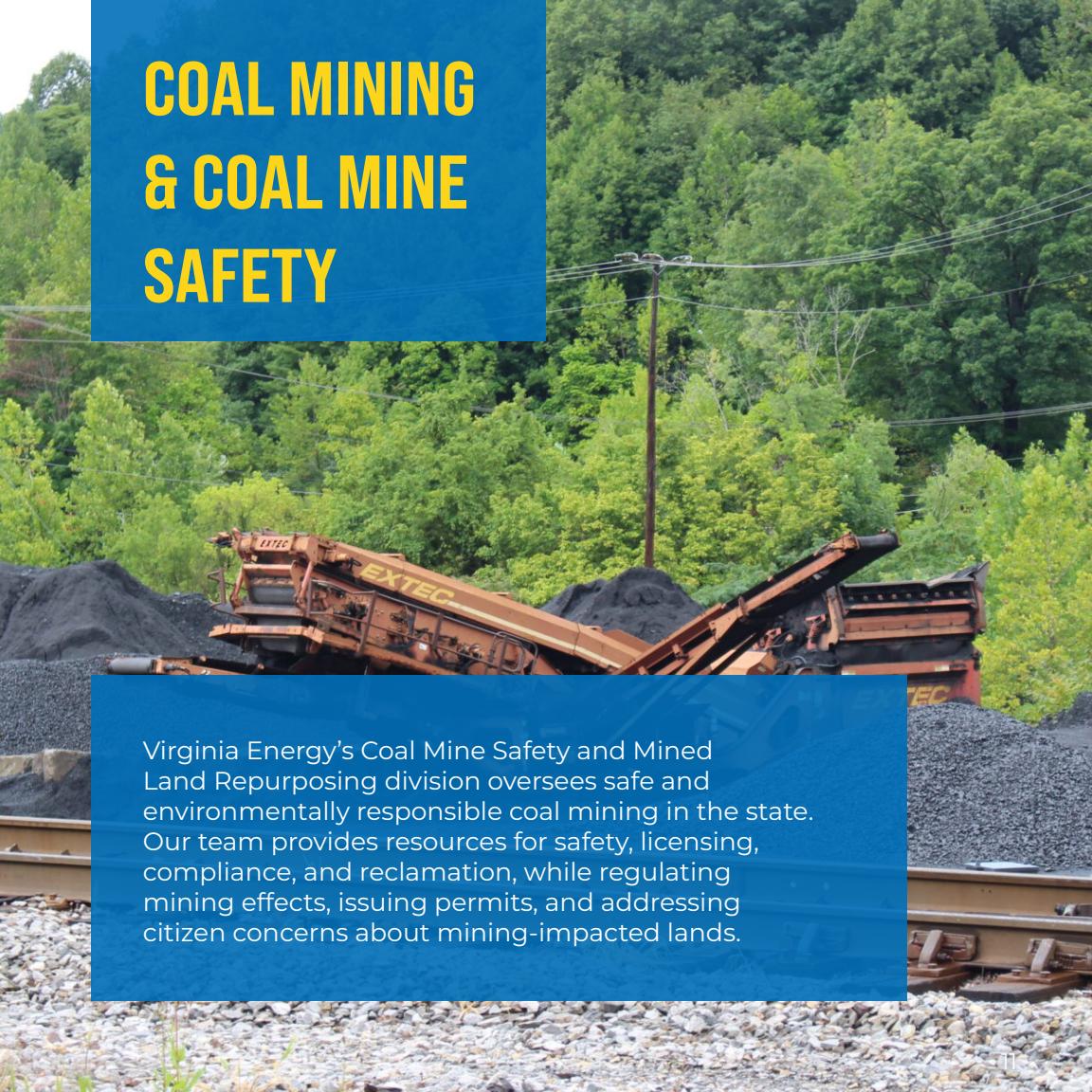
Funding a small-grants program that strengthens Virginia's nuclear workforce, manufacturing capacity, and supply-chain readiness through targeted local, industry, and university partnerships.

## **OTHER VPIP GRANTS INCLUDE**

- ✓ Funding for safety and maintenance improvements on live-line sensor installations
- ✓ Funding for innovative technologies that extend transformer lifespan and reduce replacement costs

# COAL MINING & COAL MINE SAFETY

Virginia Energy's Coal Mine Safety and Mined Land Repurposing division oversees safe and environmentally responsible coal mining in the state. Our team provides resources for safety, licensing, compliance, and reclamation, while regulating mining effects, issuing permits, and addressing citizen concerns about mining-impacted lands.



# A CORNERSTONE OF VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

With approximately 80% of Virginia's coal being high-quality metallurgical coal, our state plays a crucial role in global steel production and variety of manufacturing processes worldwide. As advancements in infrastructure and manufacturing continue to evolve, Virginia's coal will remain a critical resource, securing our position in the global market and supporting our economic future.

## SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

Safety is Virginia Energy's top priority for the miners who keep our economy moving forward. Virginia Energy issued over 4,200 safety certifications and conducted 800+ inspections in 2025 alone. Our rigorous standards and continuous improvement in safety protocols ensure that Virginia's miners work in one of the safest environments in the industry.

### ACTIVE MINES

32

### TONS PRODUCED

9,970,000+

### ECONOMIC VALUE

\$1.8+ Billion

*Production and employment numbers based on based on most recent available data from the 2025 production year.*

### INDUSTRY JOBS

2,200+

### SAFETY CERTIFICATION ISSUED

4,200+



COAL FUELS  
OUR HEALTH

### COAL POWERS INNOVATION

Carbon nanotubes derived from coal byproducts enable ultra-lightweight and highly-durable components for deep space exploration.



Virginia Energy

### COAL BUILDS CITIES

Coal is a key ingredient in steel manufacturing, essential for constructing skyscrapers and bridges.



Virginia Energy

# MINERAL MINING

From construction sites to art galleries, minerals extracted in Virginia are used in industries across the world and contribute thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to our economy. Virginia Energy provides for the safe and environmentally sound production of Virginia's non-fuel minerals, administering safety and regulatory programs for all mining operations.

# FROM ROCKS TO RICHES: VIRGINIA'S MINERAL MIGHT

Virginia's mineral mining industry produces tens of millions of tons of materials each year, contributing billions to Virginia's economic activity. Essential resources like sand, gravel, crushed stone, and granite support construction, manufacturing, and advanced technologies, fostering economic growth and providing thousands of jobs statewide.

Virginia Energy's Mineral Mining division oversees the state's permitting, licensing, certification, and training initiatives. This ensures the safe and environmentally sound production of Virginia's non-fuel minerals while fostering economic growth and maintaining rigorous safety and environmental standards.



*Salem Stone Mineral Mining*

**INDUSTRY JOBS**

6,700

**TOTAL PRODUCTION**

71M Tons

**PRODUCTION VALUE**

\$1.88B

**MINERALS MINED**

28

*Production and employment numbers based on most recent available data from the 2025 production year.*

# GEOLOGY & MINERAL RESOURCES

From detailed maps and technical reports to complex geological data and core samples, our team of experienced geoscientists provide expert assistance in all matters relating to Virginia's geological and mineral resources.

# MAPPING VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

In 2025, Virginia Energy's Geology and Mineral Resources division identified over 100 landslides, mapped new geological resources, and released 29 new or finalized mapping products, including three reports, nine geodatabases, and 17 geologic maps that help leaders in the public and private sectors make informed economic development and community safety decisions. By providing crucial information on resources and potential hazards, Virginia Energy geologists are laying the foundation for a more prosperous and secure Commonwealth.



**SINKHOLES ENTERED INTO  
VIRGINIA ENERGY DATABASE**  
17,459+

**LANDSLIDES ENTERED INTO  
VIRGINIA ENERGY DATABASE**  
2,298+

**NEW GEOLOGIC MAPS PRODUCED**  
2,000+ mi<sup>2</sup>

**HAZARD RESPONSES**  
40+

*We perform investigations aimed at reducing risk from geologic hazards and encouraging sustainable development.*

# OIL & GAS



Over 10,000 wells have been drilled in Virginia since the state's first commercial natural gas well was established near Bristol in 1931. Today, Natural gas remains a crucial part of the Commonwealth's economy. Virginia Energy regulates gas and oil operations through permitting, inspections, client assistance, abandoned well reclamation, rights protections, and conservation efforts.

## NATURAL GAS IN VIRGINIA

**ACTIVE GAS WELLS**

8,113

**GAS PRODUCED**

79.8B Cubic Ft.

**PRODUCTION VALUE**

\$181M

**INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED**

5,215+

**NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED**

1,300+

**OFFSITE IMPACTS IN 2025**

0

*Production and employment numbers based on most recent available data from the 2025 production year.*

## POWERING VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

Virginia's natural gas industry remains a vital component of the state's energy landscape, with 8,113 producing wells generating 79.8 billion cubic feet of gas valued at \$181 million in 2025. Natural gas accounts for over 50% of Virginia's total energy capacity, heating over 4.5 million homes and playing a critical role in the state's all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Virginia Energy's Oil and Gas division ensures safe and responsible production through rigorous oversight. The team helped the industry achieve a perfect record of zero offsite impacts in 2025, a testament to the team's expertise and diligence in maintaining industry best practices.

# ABANDONED MINE LANDS

Virginia's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program was established in the late 1970s to address problems left over from coal mining operations such as landslides, water loss, and more. The AML Program works to protect public safety and the general welfare of communities impacted by abandoned coal mines and to restore the surrounding ecosystem.

# REVITALIZING VIRGINIA'S LAND

**TOTAL PROJECTS  
COMPLETED TO DATE**

16

**ACTIVE PROJECTS**

41

**2025 INVESTMENT**

\$4.7M

**FEATURES INVENTORIED/  
REMEDIATED**

1,366 across 102 Problem  
Areas (PADs)

## AML IMPACTS

AMLER projects continue to diversify and strengthen the local economy through investments in industrial site development, manufacturing expansions, water and sewer infrastructure, recreation facilities, and wildlife habitat restoration. Key initiatives include new cabins, campsites, trail networks, park amenities, and renewable energy generation projects—all providing long-term benefits to coal-impacted communities.

**JJ Kelly Property  
Site Development**  
Wise County



# MINED LAND REPURPOSING

Mined Land Repurposing (MLR) is responsible for ensuring the reclamation of land affected by surface and underground coal mining activity. Major functions include regulating surface effects of mining, performing inspections, and addressing citizen concerns.

# REPURPOSING VIRGINIA'S LAND

## CITIZEN RESPONSES

128

## NEW APPLICATIONS

478

## MLR IMPACTS IN 2025

The Mined Land Repurposing division demonstrated strong environmental stewardship in 2025, with 128 citizen complaint responses. This success highlights the effectiveness of Virginia Energy's regulatory oversight and the industry's commitment to responsible mining practices. MLR Services continues to complete its regulatory mission of 100% frequency of inspection and complaint investigations. The MLR conducted a total of 2,956 inspections.





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Charlottesville, Virginia 22903



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