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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Project to Eliminate Public Safety Hazards on Former Coal Surface Mine

Scott County, Va. – Work begins this month on a former coal surface mine to rid the site of public safety hazards left by mining. Environmental improvements will also be made on the former Case Coal permit on Shupe Branch in the Mabe Community.

Case Coal did not meet environmental requirements to operate in Virginia and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy forfeited the company's bond. Coal companies are required to insure the land by acreage in case they fail to meet state and federal requirements.

“We’re seeing evidence of trespassers coming on site with their ATVs and we are concerned about their safety due to some of the features still left on this site due to the company’s failure to properly reclaim,” **said DMME Director of Coal Programs Randy Moore.** “We are excited to see the progress begin to ensure this site is returned to a better state than before mining began.”

Highwalls left by coal surface mining will be eliminated by backfilling. Haulroads will be regraded. Water quality improvements include establishing proper drainage at the site and also planting grass, bushes and trees on the land.

The reclamation is expected to cost \$162, 050. True-Line Pipeline, LLC was awarded the contract to complete the project.

On October 1st, DMME will become Virginia Energy. This work will fall under the Mined Land Repurposing program within Virginia Energy.