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Abandoned Mine Land Project to Divert Water from Historic Underground Mine from Homes

Wise County, Va. – An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) project underway on Hurricane Road near Wise will stop erosion and drainage for residents living below an historic underground mine.

The Bullion Hollow Coal Company completed mining in the area in 1963 and, at that time, was not required to meet reclamation requirements that would prevent water runoff from the mine. Virginia Energy oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

“Abandoned underground mine drainage can present problems for residents,” **said AML Projects Coordinator Lesa Baker.** “This project will correct the drainage pattern, directing the flow to the natural drain way. More importantly, is restores the safety and environment for those living below this historic mining feature.”

C&S Construction and Excavating, Inc. received the contract to complete the work. Sediment is blocking previously installed drains causing water to flow onto the residents’ property. The company will install new French drains, clean the debris and add rock in the original ditches to prevent water going to the wrong place. The project is funded through an AML grant of \$52,350. Work should be completed in March.

Virginia Energy’s Abandoned Mine Land program was established after the passing of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act in 1977. The agency manages a federal grant to reclaim issues caused by coal mining that occurred before that date. The federal funds come from the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE).