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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## **Abandoned Mine Land Project to Protect 22 Homes from Dangers Left by Historic Coal Mining in Buchanan County**

**Buchanan County, Va.** – Work is underway on multiple sites along the Lynn Camp Creek area in Buchanan County, Virginia. These Abandoned Mine Land (AML) features are considered a danger to 22 nearby homes and also an environmental concern to the community. An AML grant of \$699,108.50 will repair a host of concerns including landslides, drainage issues and closing old mine openings.

The projects are located on land above historic underground coal mines. Mining was completed in the 1960's. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

“Ridding the Lynn Camp Creek community of several of these hazards is the number one goal of our AML program,” said **Virginia Energy AML Projects Coordinator Lesa Baker**. “We have thousands of these features across the Commonwealth and we evaluate those that can have the greatest impact every day. With the safety and environmental improvements made during this work, we can celebrate another successful AML reclamation project on the books.”

Virginia Energy contracted C&S Construction and Excavating, LLC for this project. Crews will remove and repair damages caused by four landslides. Twenty-seven mine openings created for underground coal mining will be closed to the public but in a way that ensures long term drainage of this historic mine works. Proper drainage will also be established in the community to prevent erosion and protect nearby streams.

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 historic mining. Grant funds come from fees paid by the coal industry on each ton of coal mined.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) became Virginia Energy. The Abandoned Mine Land program now falls under the Mined Land Repurposing program within Virginia Energy.