



PROGRAMS
ADMINISTRATION
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND REPURPOSING
MINERAL MINING
MINES
OFFSHORE WIND
RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Energy

Washington Building / 8th Floor

1100 Bank Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638

(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237

www.energy.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2022

Tarah Kesterson

(276) 356-3405

tarah.kesterson@energy.virginia.gov

Abandoned Mine Land Project to Protect Several Homes in Wise from Hazard Caused by Historic Coal Mining

Wise County, Va. – Work begins soon on a Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) project along Pinewood Forest Road in Wise County. An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$24,007.50 will repair several concerns, including an existing ditch, to re-establish proper drainage to the site and surrounding areas.

Surface mining was completed on the site in 1976. Virginia Energy oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

"Public Safety is always our number one priority at Virginia Energy," said Abandoned Mine Land Project Coordinator Lesa Baker. "Once this project is complete, several citizens located along Pinewood Forest Road will see destructive drainage diverted from their homes."

McFall Excavating, Inc. was awarded the contract for this project. Once reclamation is complete, the improvements on this project will control erosion, drainage and direct water away from multiple homes located along Pinewood Forest Road. The project is expected to be completed next month.

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).

On October 1st, 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.