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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Energy To Control Drainage From Pre-Law Coal Mining Damaging Homes In Wise County.

Wise, VA- The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) is working to divert drainage away from homes near a pre-law underground mining operation in Wise, Virginia.

Virginia Energy's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program is administering a maintenance project that will replace failing drainage structures from a previous AML project conducted in 2004. Water draining from open portals left by a 1920's underground coal mining operation is causing erosion issues that are affecting homes below.

Work will begin this week. AJS Excavation is contracted to complete the work with an AML grant of \$36,000. The work will update the current drainage system and add erosion control that will move the water into a proper channel and away from the homes.

Virginia Energy's AML program identifies and develops projects that reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977. The 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. It is funded by the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE).

If you should have an issue with an abandoned mine land please call 276-523-8100 or email vaenergy@energy.virginia.gov.

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