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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Energy Participating in Earth Mapping Resources Initiative

*Low-Level Flights to Begin Mid-August to Gather Geological Data in Clarke,
Frederick and Loudoun Counties*

Charlottesville, Va. –The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) is working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to gather images of geology at the surface and below ground using airborne geophysical technology. This means residents in Clarke, Frederick and Loudoun Counties may see low-flying airplanes and helicopters beginning later this month and through December.

Aircraft will be flying at an altitude of 300 to 1,000 feet above ground. The pilots are experienced and specially trained and approved for low-level flying.

The flights are gathering information for the [Earth Mapping Resources Initiative](#) or Earth MRI which is a nationwide collaboration between the USGS and state geologists. The end goal is to create maps that assist in domestic exploration for mineral resources that are critical to U.S. security and for economic prosperity.

This is the first time in 45 years that this type of data gathering has occurred in these areas. For more information on the technology visit the [USGS website](#).

Those with questions may reach out to Virginia Energy's Geology and Mineral Resources Program at 434-951-6340 or send an email to vaenergy@energy.virginia.gov

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