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Midlothian Abandoned Mine Project to Remove Subsidence near Busy Highway

Midlothian, Va. – Remnants of coal mining by the English Company in the early 1900's are now causing problems along Route 60 in Midlothian. What was once the shaft, used to enter the mine or for ventilation for workers underground, is causing the area around it to subside. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) will take care of the issue with an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$99,495.45. Virginia Energy oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

The Hanson Shaft Closure project will use stone and grout to fill the void left behind by the mining company. It will prevent further subsidence and the danger of anyone falling in the shaft should they venture near the historic mine site.

Lightner Excavating was awarded the contract for this project. Work begins this week. It should take them about two months to complete the job. The project is on private property but will be visible to those driving on Route 60.

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).

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