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## **Dickenson County's Industrial Development Authority Receives \$869,584 for Red Onion Industrial Site and to Reclaim Abandoned Mine Land**

**Dickenson Co., Va.** – A build ready industrial site will soon be marketed to potential developers once construction is completed at the Red Onion Industrial Site. An Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant of \$869,584 will fund site preparation work with the end result of recruiting new business to Dickenson County. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) administers the AMLER program which is funded by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The purpose is to fund projects on abandoned mine land sites that result in an economic boost to southwest Virginia.

“I look forward to the first phase of development of the Red Onion Industrial Site, provided in part by these AMLER funds. This development will include building on-site road access, constructing stormwater and erosion control structures, as well as constructing additional broadband fiber to the site,” **said U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith.** “Once completed, Red Onion Industrial Site will be a boon for a broad range of industries, unlocking even more economic potential in Dickenson and Wise counties.”

“Dickenson County found a new purpose for land that was once mined for coal. Marketing assets such as water contained in nearby underground mines and an investment in reliable broadband is the enticement needed to attract business here,” **said Virginia Energy Acting Director Will Clear.** “This AMLER investment will bring good, high-paying jobs for Dickenson County.”

Erosion and sediment controls construction will generate enough material to stabilize the slope of a dangerous highwall nearby that was left behind by coal mining before 1977. The highwall is adjacent to the industrial site.

“Our county is limited in sites for new business so the Red Onion Industrial Site project will give us tools for economic development we haven’t had before,” **said Dickenson County Director of Economic Development Dana Cronkhite.** “The AMLER funds are getting us off to a great start and we hope to have three build ready pads for great businesses in the near future.”

The Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program originated in a federal omnibus bill in 2017. Virginia Energy has received \$10 million annually for economic development on abandoned mine lands. The program administered is by the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement.

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