



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## Wise County's Industrial Development Authority Receives \$1.7 Million for Elam Farm Industrial Site on Abandoned Mine Land

**Wise, Va.** – Land once mined for coal will now be developed to host multiple light manufacturing facilities in Wise County. The Industrial Development Authority received \$1.7 million from the Virginia Department of Energy's (Virginia Energy) Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant program to prepare those sites to be business ready.

"The redevelopment of abandoned mine land has the potential to bring new business and jobs to Southwest Virginia," **said U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith**. "This \$1.7 million grant will do just that, helping to build infrastructure on the Elam Farm Industrial site, ensuring it is pad ready. Once complete, the site should attract large scale economic development projects, positively impacting Wise County for years to come."

"Flat developable land with infrastructure is an issue in our coalfields when finding homes for new business," **said Virginia Energy Deputy Director Will Clear**. "Wise County leaders recognized that need and found the opportunity a create multiple developments that will produce new job opportunities for the region."

Known as the Elam Farm Industrial site, the future development is located within the Lonesome Pine Regional Business and Technology Park. The grant will allow the county to build an access road and install important infrastructure such as public water and sewer and natural gas utilities.

"The development of business-ready sites is a necessity for localities to be competitive in attracting new industries," **said Wise County IDA Executive Director Brian Falin**. "This project will speed up the construction to open-for-business timeline from years to months."

We are proud of our relationship with Virginia Energy, and we are grateful for the support from the AMLER program for this significant project.”

The Elam Farm Industrial Site is located on a coal mine that closed in 1975. Once construction is completed, the county will be able to market multiple developable sites for light manufacturing facilities.

The AMLER 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 is administered by the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement. The grants are managed by Virginia Energy’s Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program.

[Virginia Energy’s AML program](#) was created in 1981 and is federally funded to reclaim issues left behind by coal mining that occurred before 1977. Funding has been limited in the past meaning only the highest priority problems were able to be reclaimed. The projects were a safety threat to residents or had a significant negative environmental impact.