



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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## Virginia Energy Receives \$22.7 Million to Reclaim Abandoned Mine Lands

*The Department of Interior Announced Third Round of Funding for the Commonwealth*

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) is getting a third round of significant funding to reclaim abandoned mine land features across the Commonwealth. The agency will receive \$22,779,530 through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL), leading to more community development projects and job opportunities through the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program. The Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE) made the announcement today that Virginia would receive the funding. The AML program reclaims features left behind by coal mining that occurred before 1977.

“The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law infuses coal communities with the funding necessary to turn past pollution into future prosperity,” **said OSMRE Principal Deputy Director Sharon Buccino**. “This historic funding is making people safer, cleaning up the environment, and creating jobs—outcomes that these communities need and deserve.”

“This important funding is already leading to positive changes in our coalfield communities that include Southwest Virginia, parts of the New River Valley, and around Richmond,” **said Virginia Energy Director Glenn Davis**. “Projects completed, underway, and in the planning phases are holistically improving communities and entire watersheds.”

Virginia has thousands of abandoned mine land features awaiting reclamation. Previous funding limited the number of projects that could be completed within a grant year. The additional BIL funding received this year and the last two years has set the stage for the agency to execute larger projects that will result in improved safety for residents and positive changes for the environment that was once impacted by historic coal mining.

“Due to a long and ongoing history of coal mining, Virginia has a workforce that’s ready to complete the to-do list created by the infrastructure legislation,” **said Virginia Energy Director of Coal Programs Randy Moore**.



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Since 2017, Virginia Energy's traditional AML program continues to establish and support job growth by creating approximately 1000 jobs within our communities and expects to create an average of 100 jobs every five years. The AML program typically receives around \$3 million annually. Based on that funding, these additional dollars are projected to create more than one thousand jobs.

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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