



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Abandoned Mine Land Project Reclaims Subsidence Caused by Historic Coal Mining in Midlothian

Midlothian, Va. – Another void caused by historic mining will be filled in Midlothian. An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$71,780 will reclaim the subsidence caused by an historic coal mining shaft. The coal mines at Aetna Hill were operated between 1798 and the mid-1800's. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

“These voids are just across the road from several housing units in Chesterfield County,” **said AML Projects Manager Lesa Baker.** “Our team was there in July sealing another opening caused by an old mine shaft and we want to make sure this one doesn't become a safety hazard either.”

The Aetna Willis Shaft Maintenance project will use concrete and stone to reclaim the subsidence. The area will be covered with soil and seeded once completed. It is considered a Priority One project meaning that it poses significant safety harm.

Virginia Energy contracted AJS Excavating, Inc. and the project is expected to be completed in March.

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 historic mining. Grant funds come from the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE).

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