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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Virginia Department of Energy*

Washington Building / 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638  
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237  
[www.energy.virginia.gov](http://www.energy.virginia.gov)

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Tarah Kesterson

(276) 356-3405

[tarah.kesterson@energy.virginia.gov](mailto:tarah.kesterson@energy.virginia.gov)

## **Virginia Energy Continues Investigation into Fly Rock Incident in Warren County**

**Charlottesville, Va.** –The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) remains on the scene today of the Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania, LLC mine in Warren County after fly rock left the mine site on Wednesday. Two people received minor injuries. One refused treatment the other was treated and released from the hospital. Buildings and vehicles were also damaged from the rock.

Fly rock is any uncontrolled material generated by the effect of a blast that is hazardous to persons or to property not owned or controlled by the operator. Fly rock incidents are extremely uncommon. Material from blasts should remain within the permitted site for safety and for successful mining for the company selling their commodity.

“Public safety is a priority at Virginia Energy and fly rock incidents are very serious violations,” **said Virginia Energy Director of Mineral Mining Phil Skorupa.** “It is a relief to know no one was seriously hurt as a result of this incident but we never want to see any off-site impacts from any of our mining sites across the Commonwealth. Our team will remain on site until blasting can continue safely.”

Virginia Energy has issued a closure order on blasting at the mine. The company will not be able to blast until the investigation is completed and a new blasting plan is submitted and approved by the agency. Blasting at the site will be monitored by Virginia Energy inspectors until a satisfactory amount of blasts has occurred and then the order may be modified to allow blasting under restricted conditions. The blasting plan will also be modified as needed during the monitored blasting period.

The mine is located at the corner of Interstate 66 and Route 522. Operational since the early 1800’s, the mine was first permitted in 1969. Over 500,000 tons of limestone was produced at this site in 2021. Hanson Aggregates Pennsylvania, LLC employs four people.