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## **Abandoned Mine Land Emergency Work to Stop Landslide Danger to Residents in Wise County**

**Wise County, Va.** – Crews are stabilizing a landslide that posed a danger to three homes in Coeburn. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) declared the project along Pepperhill Road an emergency which got contractors to the site quickly to begin moving material. An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$243,720.00 will repair the landslide and remove the potential for any further slides. Virginia Energy oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

The area above and around the landslide was deep mined and surface mined by several different mining companies prior to 1977. At that time, material collected from mining was pushed over the hillside and left. Water associated with the old mine works began saturating that material and caused it to move downhill—sliding in the direction of nearby homes and a public road.

McFall Excavating, Inc. was awarded the contract for this project. The crew began work on February 11<sup>th</sup> to remove the sliding material. They will also properly route the water coming from this historic mining to avoid future landslides. The project should be completed next month.

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).