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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Energy

Washington Building / 8th Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.energy.virginia.gov

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Tarah Kesterson

(276) 356-3405

tarah.kesterson@energy.virginia.gov

Virginia Energy Now Accepting Applications from Coal Companies for Abandoned Mine Land Projects

If approved, companies can bid on projects without a contractor's license.

Big Stone Gap, Va. – The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) is accepting applications from companies with three or more years of mining and reclamation experience and that are interested in bidding on Abandoned Mine Land (AML) projects. These projects result in removing safety hazards and environmental issues caused by coal mining that occurred before 1977.

Approved applicants will be able to bid on projects without holding a Class A contractor's license due to the contractor exemption option within the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Interested coal companies must be in good standing in the Applicant Violator System (AVS), have conducted business for three years in the Commonwealth and completed reclamation projects. Approved applicants are also required to register in Virginia's procurement system, [eVA](#). Coal companies can find more information and the application on the Virginia Energy [website](#). Virginia Energy's Director of Coal Programs must approve all applicants.

“Virginia Energy is slated to receive a significant increase in funding for AML this year. Because of that, we hope to complete a record amount of projects and we need boots on the ground to meet those goals,” said **Virginia Energy Director of Coal Programs Randy Moore**. “There is also a focus to use the federal funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) to put coal miners back to work and by adding coal companies to our list of contractors, we hope to see that specially trained workforce back on a payroll.”

Virginia has several thousand AML features in inventory. Due to a lack of funding in previous years, the Commonwealth has only been able to complete those projects labeled Priority I- meaning they pose the greatest danger to personal safety or the environment. The BIL will allow reclamation of lower priority projects. Virginia slated to receive nearly \$23 million for that AML cleanup for the next 15-years.

“We have a great list of contractors that have completed wonderful reclamation work in the various coalfields across Virginia,” **said AML Projects Coordinator Lesa Baker.** “But, the list of projects is growing and so the list of those able to do the work needs to grow, as well. There will be plenty of work to go around and the results will be quite the positive environmental impact.”

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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