



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Virginia Energy Recognizes Excellence in Reclamation in the Commonwealth's Mineral Mining Industry

Charlottesville, Va. – The Star Tannery mine in Strasburg took top honors for exemplary reclamation in 2022 from the Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy). Three other mine sites were awarded for going above and beyond regulatory requirements when reclaiming the land in areas where mining was complete.

“Environmental protection is a priority for Virginia Energy’s Mineral Mining program,” **said Virginia Energy Director of Mineral Mining and Gas and Oil Phil Skorupa.** “Meeting regulatory requirements is a daily task at every mine site across the Commonwealth. Going the extra mile in finding creative uses for the land after mining is to be applauded. These companies not only show their commitment to clean water, air and native creatures but also their innovative spirit for land use.”

The following mines were recognized for their reclamation efforts:

Overall Winner and Best Quarry:

The Star Tannery Mine is owned by C.S. Mundy Eagle Corporation. When reclamation began in 2012, the company faced several issues in getting the proper slope for erosion control in an area where mining was complete. A difficult soil base and lack of top soil meant extra time, money and experts were needed. The crew at the Star Tannery Mine did not quit and in 2022, their efforts paid off. The area was properly reclaimed with all water protections in place.

Best Non-Quarry:

The Providence Forge Pit took on reclamation of an older mining pit for a very creative post mining land use. Owned by C.H. Scriber Contracting, Inc., the pit was reclaimed for

a business expansion at the site. It will also provide a plot for recreational hunting. The pit had been reclaimed to regulatory requirements, so this effort was above and beyond.

Honorable Mention Quarry:

Martin Marietta's Doswell Plant increased the value of the land where they once mined. Near important landmarks such as the North Anna Battlefield park, the mine uses native grasses near the active mining area to ensure erosion control. The company also took great efforts to reclaim an area where several thousand cubic yards of overburden had to be removed for mining. Grasses were planted there, a sloped drain was installed and a pond was constructed to capture any sediment leaving the site.

Honorable Mention Non-Quarry:

Walker Sand & Stone Inc.'s Mine #1 in Culpepper has a history of simultaneously mining and reclaiming. Where sand was once removed to be sold, homes and pastures now exist. A portion of their mining area was also reclaimed as a wildlife conservation area.

This year's winners were chosen by Virginia's Orphan Land Advisory Council. The companies will be awarded at the annual Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) conference at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg on July 15th.