



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Virginia Energy, Regional Leaders Mark More Than \$10 Million in AMLER Investments in Norton, Wise

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy), the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (LPRIFA), the Wise County Industrial Development Authority, and regional leaders gathered this week to mark more than \$10.2 million in Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) investments supporting business recruitment, transportation access, and residential redevelopment in the City of Norton and the Town of Wise.

“Investments like these through our AMLER program are a meaningful commitment to the people and future of Southwest Virginia, giving coalfield communities the tools to turn the legacy of coal into new jobs, infrastructure, and opportunity,” **said Vince Maiden, Director of Virginia Energy.** “Each project reflects a practical, locally driven strategy for strengthening these communities and creating the conditions for future investment.”

The investments include funding for two projects at Project Intersection in Norton—part of LPRIFA's 200-acre industrial park, which includes five building pads—and site development at the former J.J. Kelly High School property in Wise. Together, the projects are designed to strengthen the region's competitiveness for new employers, improve infrastructure for current and future businesses, and create conditions for new housing investment.

Project Intersection (Norton):

AMLER investments will support construction of up to a 40,000-square-foot speculative building designed to accommodate light manufacturing if needed. Additionally, the development of a second access road will improve access to the 200-acre industrial park. The park's existing access road also serves Norton's main shopping center, Central High

School, and area medical facilities, carrying approximately 4,654 average daily trips. The new road will improve access to the park and prepare the area for anticipated traffic growth.

J.J. Kelly Property Site Development:

AMLER funding will support site-preparation work at the 7.76-acre former school property in Wise, identified by county officials as a priority location for private residential redevelopment. The school structure was demolished in late 2022. AMLER-funded work will include pavement and sidewalk demolition, earthwork, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, seeding, and related construction activities needed to prepare the property for private prospects.

Quotes:

“I've supported the AMLER program since its earliest days over a decade ago, championing every opportunity for investment in our region. These projects are just the latest in a long line of successes, and I'm excited to see our communities successfully advance into the future.” — **Rep. Morgan Griffith, 9th District**

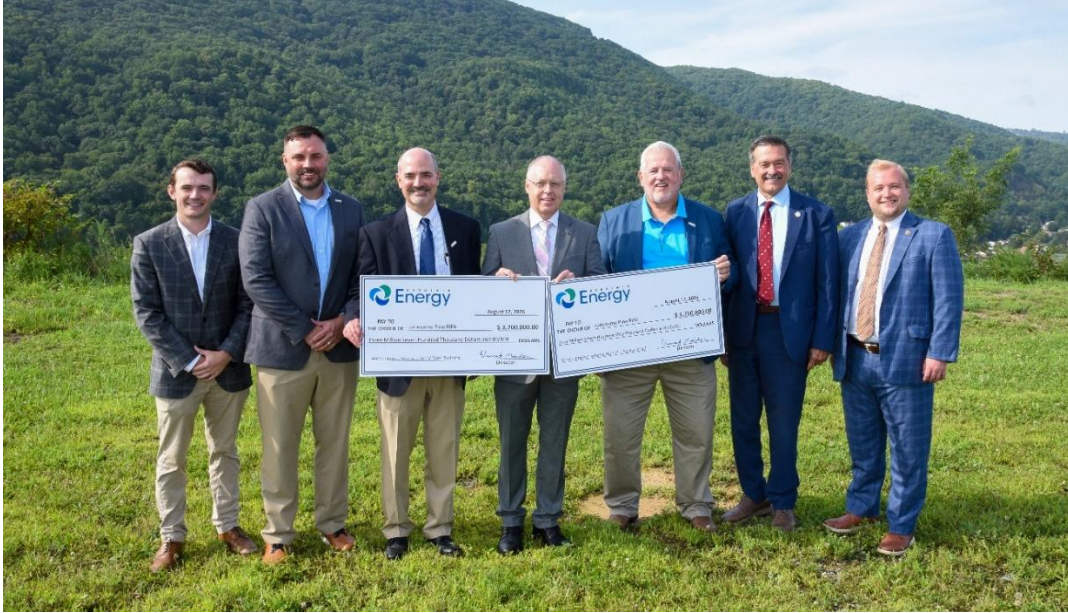
“For over 30 years, I've represented Norton and Wise, and I've seen how funding like this builds on the region's legacy, transforming former mining grounds into real opportunities for our communities.” — **Del. Terry Kilgore, House Minority Leader**

“AMLER dollars are a great example of how modest federal investments can help unlock former coal sites for private development. By putting these sites back to work, Southwest Virginia can leverage its coal heritage to attract new investment, create jobs, and prepare for the next generation of economic opportunity.” — **Sen. Todd Pillion, 6th District**

About the AMLER program:

The AMLER program in Virginia is administered by the Virginia Department of Energy and funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through a direct payment to the Commonwealth. Virginia began receiving AMLER funds in 2017. Since then, more than 50 projects have been recommended for funding, all located in Appalachian coalfield counties where mining occurred prior to 1977. Virginia Energy oversees the program under the authority of the federal Office of Surface Mining. Virginia is one of six states and three tribes selected to receive AMLER funding.

For more information about Virginia Energy's AMLER program, visit the [Virginia Department of Energy](#) website.



Virginia Energy, the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority, and regional leaders gathered at Project Intersection in Norton on August 17, 2026, to ceremonially present two checks for projects totaling \$8.45 million in Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization investments. The investments will support construction of up to a 40,000-square-foot speculative building and the development of a second access road. (Download a high-resolution version [here.](#))



Virginia Energy, the Wise County Industrial Development Authority, and regional leaders gathered at the former J.J. Kelly High School property in Wise on August 17, 2026, to ceremonially present a \$1.8 million check representing Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization investments that will support site-preparation work at the 7.76-acre lot identified as a as a priority location for private residential redevelopment. (Download a high-resolution version [here.](#))

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