



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Virginia Department of Energy Announces National Mine Reclamation Award for Iluka Resources, Inc.

RICHMOND, VA. — The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) today announced that Iluka Resources, Inc., Old Hickory Mine, a mineral mine operator in Sussex County, has been honored with a National Mine Reclamation Award in the Non-Coal Category by the [Interstate Mining Compact Commission \(IMCC\)](#).

The award recognizes Old Hickory Mine’s outstanding commitment to restoring mined lands to productive use, protecting water and wildlife resources, and demonstrating that responsible mineral development and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. The site was nominated by Virginia Energy’s Mineral Mining program after a comprehensive review of the company’s reclamation performance and long-term environmental practices.

“This national recognition showcases the very best of Virginia’s mining industry,” said Michael Skiffington, Acting Director of the Virginia Department of Energy. “Iluka Resources has shown that careful planning, sound engineering, and sustained investment in reclamation can leave the land better prepared for future uses. Their work at Old Hickory Mine sets a high bar for mine operators across the Commonwealth and the nation.”

The National Mine Reclamation Awards are presented annually by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission to recognize exemplary mine reclamation in coal and non-coal mining operations across member states. The non-coal category highlights operations that successfully reclaim sites used for the extraction of minerals such as sand, gravel, industrial minerals, and other non-coal resources.

Virginia Energy’s Director of Mineral Mining Phil Skorupa highlighted the technical and operational strengths of Iluka’s reclamation program.

“Our team has seen first-hand the quality of the reclamation at Old Hickory,” Skorupa said. “From re-establishing native vegetation and productive soils to managing stormwater and protecting nearby streams and wetlands, Iluka has consistently met and exceeded regulatory requirements.”



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This award confirms what we've observed in the field for years: Old Hickory is a model of modern, responsible mineral mining.”

Iluka's Old Hickory Mine is one of Virginia's leading mineral mining operations, producing valuable mineral sands while implementing progressive reclamation practices during active mining. The company has worked closely with Virginia Energy's regulators, local stakeholders, and landowners to plan for long-term land use and to ensure that reclaimed areas support agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, and other beneficial uses.

About Virginia Energy

Virginia Energy is the state agency charged with advancing Virginia's energy, mining, and mineral policies and initiatives. Our mission is to lead the Commonwealth to a safe, reliable and responsible energy future by providing for safe and environmentally sound stewardship of Virginia's mineral and energy resources; encouraging economic development through the sound stewardship of Virginia's energy, mineral, land and water resources; and successfully pursuing federal funding and implementing the Virginia Energy Plan to ensure the Commonwealth has abundant, reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy.

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