



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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For Immediate Release
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DMME Announces Opening of Russell County Office

- Coal mine reclamation, safety services available at Lebanon office December 15, 2008 -

Big Stone Gap, VA – A Lebanon, VA, branch office of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will open on December 15, 2008, in the Russell County Government Center, agency officials announced today. The office will combine current DMME field offices in Buchanan, Russell and Washington Counties into one location. The consolidation was undertaken by the agency to reduce operating costs and improve service to its customers.

The opening of the Lebanon office will follow the December 12, 2008, closure of DMME's Keen Mountain field office in Buchanan County. Services from that office will be discontinued on that day with the exception of General Miner training which will be offered each Wednesday through the end of December. DMME will also close its Blackford field office in Russell County on December 12, 2008.

DMME services provided at the Lebanon location will be the same coal mine reclamation and safety services previously available at the Buchanan County office. These services include mine permit and license application drop-offs, miner certification training and examinations, and public access to purchase certification study guides or view mine maps and other records.

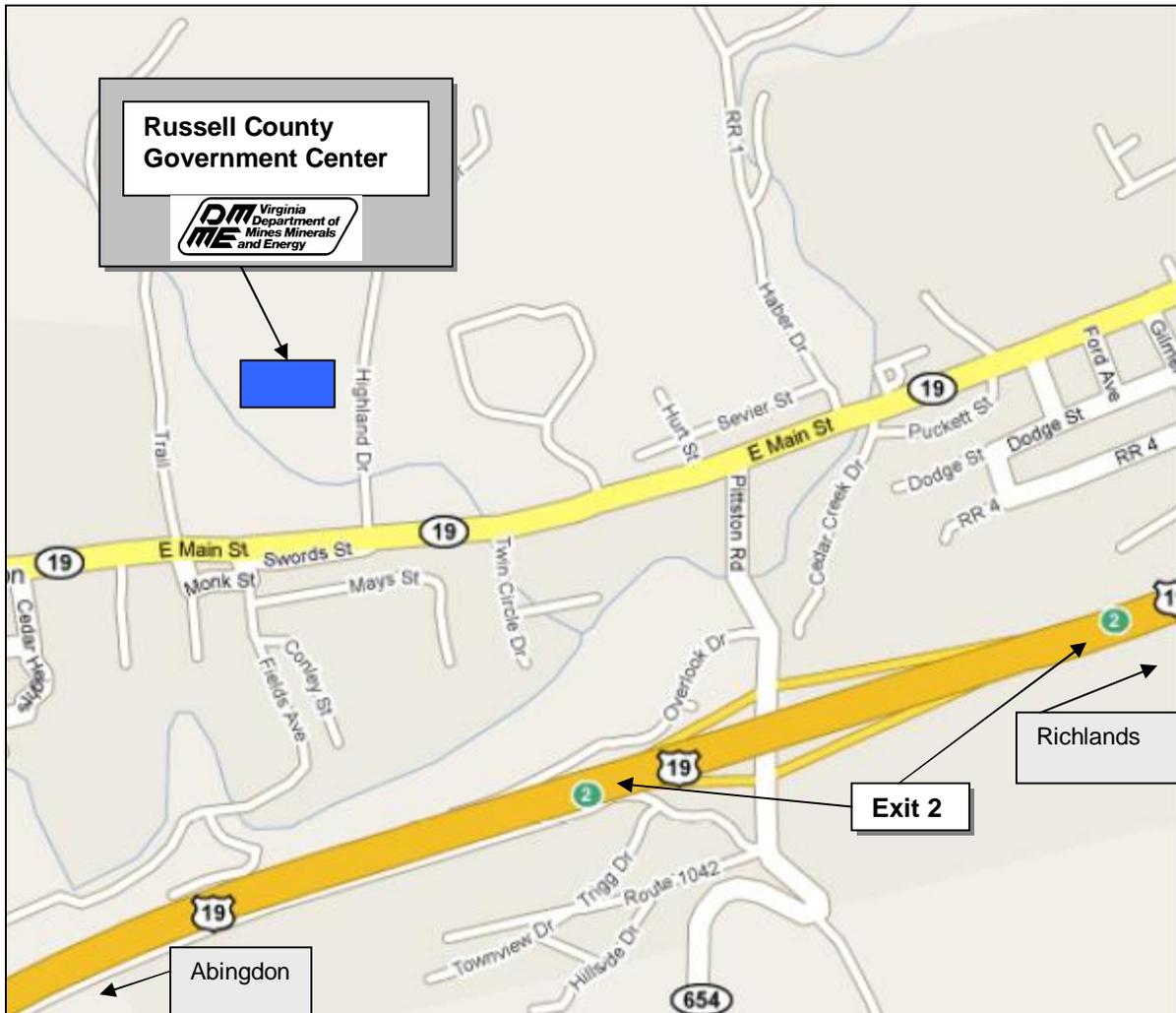
The Lebanon office location will eventually include DMME's Division of Gas and Oil which will relocate there from Abingdon in April 2009. The Division of Gas and Oil provides services to the natural gas and oil extraction industries and to the general public affected by extraction activities.

- **Office Location:** The Russell County Government Center is located off Main Street in Lebanon. From U.S. Route 19 North, take Exit 2, turn left at the bottom of the ramp (or right

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if exiting from U.S. Route 19 South) onto Pittston Road and travel to Main Street, turn left onto Main Street and travel to Highlands Drive and turn right (at Wendy's Restaurant). Follow Highlands Drive and turn left into Russell County Government Center parking lot. A sign will be posted at the entrance of the DMME office.

- **Office Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 159, Lebanon, VA 24266
- **Shipping Address:** 135 Highlands Drive, Lebanon, VA 24266
- **Telephone:** (276) 415-9650; **FAX:** (276) 415-9671



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