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2016 Energy Expo held at Ridgeview Middle School

Dickenson County, VA – Nearly 200 Dickenson County 6th graders had the opportunity to learn about the industries that produce and support energy in southwest Virginia at the 2016 Energy Expo. This was the fifth Energy Expo held in Dickenson County. October is also National Energy Awareness Month.

Students had a chance to see a drone used in coal mining engineering projects, how a natural gas well works, mine rescue teams in action, how a drill digs a well and much, much more.

“This truly shows how the community cares about the future of our students,” said Dickenson County Schools Superintendent Haydee Robinson. “Not only do these companies and agencies provide a wealth of information to our sixth graders about opportunities for a career right here at home, they get on their level and even provide hands-on opportunities they can’t get anywhere else.”

Representatives from area companies and organizations were set up at stations. Students visited each station throughout the day. Presenters included: 3B Consulting, CNX, Coal Mining Engineering Services, LLC., CSE Corporation, Dickenson County Chamber of Commerce, Enervest, Lee Supply Company, Inc., Noah Horn, Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Virginia Oil and Gas Association.

DMME helped organize and sponsored the event. Representatives from energy, gas and oil, mined land reclamation and mine safety talked to students about how the agency protects workers and the environment at coal and gas sites. The students also learned about renewable energy and energy efficiency earlier in the week.

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“Our agency has been involved in this program since it began,” said DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert. “Our schools are the best place to start educating Virginians about protecting the environment and all of the different types of energy that our agency regulates. We are proud to bring our resources and experts to such a great event.”

A mine rescue competition was held on campus with seven teams competing. A pre-shift competition was also held. Mine emergency “problems” were set up on the fields behind the school for the teams and individuals to solve. The exercise also serves as important training for the miners. Revelation Energy’s mine rescue team won the Energy Expo Mine Rescue Competition. Casey Mooneyhan, with Contura Energy, took first place in the pre-shift competition.

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