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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Over \$50,000 in Natural Gas Royalties Awaiting W-9 Forms** *Funds Unclaimed for Five Years to be Transferred*

**Lebanon, Va.-** Over \$50,000 worth of checks from natural gas royalties are ready to be mailed, however the bank cannot get those out until whomever is receiving that payment completes a [W-9 Tax Form](#). In most cases, companies have been mailing blank forms to those who will be receiving payments.

Those whose forms are missing are listed on the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's [website](#). The information includes the person's name and the amount due. Once a [W-9](#) form is completed it should be sent to the company producing the natural gas.

In addition, over \$500 worth of royalty payment checks made in 2011 have not been cashed. If those checks remain uncashed for five years, the money is then escheated or transferred to Virginia's general fund. Over \$5,000 is currently scheduled to be escheated in 2017.

A list of names that were issued checks that have not been cashed from 2011 and 2012 can also be found on [DMME's website](#).

“We want to make sure those due money from our escrow account receive it,” said Virginia Gas and Oil Board Chairman, Butch Lambert. “We hope that making all the information available via the DMME website will make it very easy for royalty recipients to either get those W-9s in or remember to cash the checks sent them.”

In July 2015, Virginia enacted a law that gave gas owners the right to coalbed methane royalties if there was not a previous legal ruling or existing agreement between coal and gas owners. Coalbed methane is a gas contained in a coal seam. Previously there were disputes over whether the person with the gas or coal rights to property where gas is produced was due the royalties. Eventually this law change will allow approximately \$20 million dollars to be released from the escrow account.