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ENERGY
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GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
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EnerVest Operating, LLC Recognized as 2019 Operator of the Year *Leadership, Safety and Environmental Stewardship Also Awarded in 2019 Awards for Excellence in Virginia's Gas and Oil Industry*

Abingdon, Va. – EnerVest Operating, LLC was recognized as **Operator of the Year** in the 2019 Virginia Gas and Oil Industry Awards. The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy awarded 21 other outstanding achievements by members of the gas and oil industry.

EnerVest Operating, LLC received the recognition for several achievements in 2019. Perhaps the most important was an excellent safety record. Employees worked 830,000 hours without a lost time accident. The company credits their Good Catch Program that investigated all near miss incidents and provided training for more than 500 employees and contractors. EnerVest also has strong environmental values, which is evident in pollinator seed projects, spill remediation trainings, leak studies and much more. The company is also known for a good neighbor approach in the communities in which it operates- contributing to projects such as the Health Wagon that provides free or reduced health care to residents in southwest Virginia.

“Our gas and oil industry has proven that it can operate safely while complying with environmental regulations we have in place in Virginia,” said **DMME Director of Gas and Oil Rick Cooper**. “We have seen outstanding and innovative work in 2019 and we are proud to recognize individuals and companies that strive for excellence within their industry.”

A video presentation will replace an awards banquet this year and will be available via the DMME website and social media accounts over the next few weeks.

Other awards included:

Excellence in Outreach Innovation – Virginia Natural Gas established a new communications technology program for residential customers called “Keep Me Informed”.

Excellence in Exploration Innovation – EnerVest Operating, LLC, Virginia Tech’s Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research (VCCER), and the Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory collaborated with Pashin Geoscience, LLC, and Gerald R. Hill, PhD, Inc. to investigate potential gas reserves in Virginia. Through a grant, the team drilled a test well in Wise County that was 15,000 feet deep. This project will be critical in the continued development of the natural gas industry in southwest Virginia.

Environmental Stewardship- Coronado VA LLC and CNX Resources worked together to create coalbed methane wells that also provide a vital mine safety component in coal extraction in Buchanan County. Since the beginning of 2018, Coronado has provided funding to plug 74 hydraulically fractured wells and 79 gob wells, including 34 fractured wells and 44 gob wells in 2019. Currently, Coronado maintains a total of 372 wells that must be plugged in the future. Coronado ensures the work in the mine always coincides with the needs of the natural gas industry.

Environmental Stewardship- Virginia Natural Gas has pledged to be the first natural gas utility in America to provide customers with natural gas through companies that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Virginia Natural Gas has also worked to reduce methane emissions by updating infrastructure.

Excellence in Coalbed Methane Sustainability- EnerVest Operating, LLC and GSI Environmental Inc. agreed to be part of a Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory study that would measure the effects of a new rule on methane emissions for small oil and gas operators across the country. EnerVest assisted over a 16-month period and helped researchers develop real-world conditions to ensure proper regulation.

Excellence in Safety Awareness-EnerVest LLC established a new safety program in 2019 called “Good Catch”. Employees reported near miss incidents and they were investigated leading to the identification of weaknesses and the creation of solutions to improve job site safety.

Excellence in Emergency Management Strategies- Columbia Gas of Virginia was ready for the COVID-19 crisis long before it hit thanks to the development of an Incident Command System. It allowed Columbia Gas to maintain safe service to its 280,000 customers across Virginia and continue effective communication with stakeholders.

Environmental Excellence- EnerVest Operating, LLC decided to take a chance and use pollinator seed mixes when reclaiming well sites. The pilot project will now play a vital role in the ecosystem and leaves the land better than it was before drilling occurred.

Community Outreach- Virginia Natural Gas collaborated with superstar Pharrell Williams to create a living and educational garden for students at Seatack Elementary in Virginia Beach. It was part of the inaugural “Something in the Water” festival. Virginia Natural Gas also lent a hand in keeping the beaches clean during the event.

Excellence in Public Awareness and Education- Columbia Gas helped develop a program for high school students to learn more about career opportunities in the energy sector. Students

received hands-on experience and company mentors to help plan their post-high school career paths.

Excellence in Collaborative Initiative- CNX Resources and Coronado VA LLC redesigned a machine that helps remove coalbed methane created in the longwall mining process. The result was a more efficient and faster working gob blower skid.

Partnership in Industry Sustainability- CNX Resources and Diversified Gas and Oil worked together to design, install and operate a pipeline system that would benefit both companies. This will help both remain sustainable and allows for easier travel of natural gas through Buchanan County.

Midstream Service Provider of the Year- G&R Gas Services, Inc. is known as the go-to service provider in Virginia for well tending and other natural gas services. The company now has two locations and has established a working relationship with nearly every producer in the Commonwealth. G&R employees 92 people and has an excellent safety record.

Upstream Service Provider of the Year- Shale Pro Energy Services responded with expert precision to new changes in flowback operations due to a change in EPA regulations in 2019. They tackled unique scheduling and procedural obstacles, while also providing roustabout services, valve installations and more. Shale Pro's highly skilled staff, well-maintained equipment and excellent safety record are among the reasons they are selected for the award.

Production Service Provider of the Year- Scott's Well Services, Inc. is recognized as a one-stop shop by many operators in Virginia's southwestern gas fields. The company has a large fleet and is equipped with the necessary people and supplies to perform a number of jobs on site including tank replacement.

Local Distribution Company of the Year- Virginia Natural Gas serves more than 300,000 customers across the Commonwealth. An economic engine for southeast Virginia, Virginia Natural Gas helps support small businesses and contributes to energy efficiency through education provided to customers. Virginia Natural Gas is also a consistent supporter of various non-profits in the regions it serves.

Excellence in Community Outreach and Education- When **Rhudy Keith** is not ensuring the safety of hundreds of employees at Noah Horn Well Drilling, he is making time to talk to students and give back to the community. He plants trees on Arbor Day, drives a drill rig to Dickenson County for the annual Energy Expo and serves as the Assistant Fire Chief for the Richlands Fire/Rescue Department.

Compliance Excellence- Laura Murray has over a decade of experience in the gas and oil industry and has made outstanding contributions in ensuring regulatory compliance for the companies she has served. As Associate Landman for EnerVest Operating LLC, Laura is always up to date on requirements and it shows in the work she submits during permitting processes.

Excellence in Operational Leadership- Eric Hurt brings 28 years of experience to the industry and currently manages compressor maintenance and gas processing for CNX Resources. Eric worked on major projects that expanded business opportunities and is considered a key asset within his company.

Industry Leadership Award- Sherri Scott has quite the task of working to distribute natural gas royalties and to find lost and unaccounted for accounts in Virginia. As manager of land records for CNX Resources, she brings nearly 30 years of service to the industry.

Outstanding Leadership- When describing **Duan Hobbs**, a fellow Columbia Gas employee used the words leader, kind, compassionate and family. Duan serves as a customer relations manager and c-chairs the Inclusion and Diversity group within his company. He also volunteers on the University of Richmond Alumni Board and works closely with the local chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy that directly contributed to diversifying the industry.

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