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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Seeking Additional Public Comment for Reenergize Southwest Virginia

Big Stone Gap, VA – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is announcing two additional public listening sessions to receive comments from residents on ways to better diversify the economy of southwest Virginia. The initiative is called Reenergize Southwest Virginia.

Reenergize Southwest Virginia Listening Session Two

When: July 6, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Where: Tazewell County, Location TBA

Join Virtually:

<https://covaconf.webex.com/covaconf/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea864d5fe14bcf609de5bc4b3d204adf2>

password: dmme1

Dial in number: +1-866-692-4530

Dial in access code: 161 371 5413

Reenergize Southwest Virginia Listening Session Three

When: July 8, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Where: Jettie Baker Center, Clintwood

Join Virtually:

<https://covaconf.webex.com/covaconf/onstage/g.php?MTID=e93ed8de555af7fe51739c2e44faeab4c>

password: dmme1

Dial in number: +1-866-692-4530

Dial in access code: 161 966 9412

DMME is receiving comments through a variety of formats.

- Residents may speak at the in-person meetings
- Via the chat box through WebEx
- reenergizeswva@dmme.virginia.gov
- [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website](#)
- Comments can be mailed to:

ATTN: Reenergize SWVA

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

3405 Mountain Empire Road

Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.

Comments will be accepted through September 30, 2021.

The first Reenergize Southwest Virginia listening session was held at Mountain Empire Community College on June 8, 2021. That recording and more information on the agency's efforts can be found on the DMME [website](#).

In April 2021, Governor Northam signed legislation that repealed the Coal Employment and Production Incentive Tax Credit and the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit. The legislation also directed DMME to lead a workgroup and provide a report to the General Assembly as to how the Commonwealth can provide economic transition support to the coalfield region. (Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell and Wise) Public comment gathered from these meetings will be used in the final report.

Those needing additional information should please contact:

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