



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Washington Building, 8th Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2021

Contact: Tarah Kesterson (276) 523-8146

E-mail: tarah.kesterson@dmme.virginia.gov

Abandoned Mine Land Project Removes Future Flooding and Landslide Threats for Norton Residents

Big Stone Gap, Va. – Work will soon begin to relieve some residents in Norton of flooding and landslide potentials. An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$9,900 will remove clogged streams and land left behind by historic mining. A surface mine operated on the land until 1981. The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) oversees the AML program.

“This project is one of many that makes a big difference in the lives of our residents that live in these coal-impacted communities,” **said AML Projects Manager Lesa Baker.** “DMME’s work is evident in the safety and environmental improvements for thousands of people that find themselves in harm’s way due to historic coal mining.”

The Multay Lane Project adds French drains to move the water to another drainage structure previously installed there by DMME’s AML program. It is considered a Priority Two project meaning that it poses significant safety and environmental harm. Three homes will benefit from the project.

C&S Construction and Excavating is scheduled to begin work this week.

DMME’s Abandoned Mine Land program was established after the passing of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act in 1977. The agency manages a federal grant to reclaim issues caused by historic mining. Grant funds come from fees paid by the coal industry on each ton of coal mined.

###