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Abandoned Mine Land Project Reclaims Subsidence Caused by Historic Coal Mining in Midlothian

Midlothian, Va. – Work is underway to fill a large void near several residences in Midlothian. An Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant of \$238,100 will fill and seal the subsidence caused by an historic coal mining shaft. The coal mines at Aetna Hill were operated between 1798 and the mid-1800's. The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) oversees the AML program that develops projects to reclaim issues caused by coal mining before 1977.

“When we saw the number of residences in this area of Chesterfield County, we knew we had to act fast,” **said AML Projects Manager Lesa Baker.** “Our priority is the safety of Virginians and we wanted to make sure we did what we could to protect nearby residents from the effects of coal mines that operated centuries ago.”

The Aetna Willis Shaft Maintenance project will use concrete, steel mesh to reclaim the subsidence. The area will be covered with soil and seeded once completed. It is considered a Priority One project meaning that it poses significant safety harm.

DMME contracted Landwerks Construction and work began this week. The project is expected to be completed in September.

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.

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