

Commonwealth of Virginia

Office of Governor Bob McDonnell

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Governor McDonnell Announces \$4.76 Million in Funding to Provide Public Water to 270 Homes in Buchanan and Wise Counties

Water Projects Funded by Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Program

RICHMOND – Governor Robert F. McDonnell announced today that the counties of Buchanan and Wise will receive a combined total of \$4,755,000 in Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding for public water projects in April 2010. One project in each county has been selected for construction funding under Virginia’s AML FY10 Grant administered by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. Water supplies in both project areas were impacted by pre-1981 coal surface mining activities, making them eligible for AML funding. Virginia AML funds originate from reclamation taxes paid by the state's coal industry.

“I am pleased to announce that clean, reliable drinking water will be supplied to residents of the Dunbar community in Wise County and the Hurley area of Buchanan County,” said Governor McDonnell. “The improvement and expansion of public water infrastructure in these areas will provide needed services to both the citizens and business community.”

Virginia’s AML program has helped provide or enhance water supplies to over 7,500 households in the coalfield area using over \$25.6 million in AML funding since 1984.

Dunbar Water Supply Project—Wise County Public Service Authority and the Lenowisco Planning District Commission

This water project will service 48 households in the Dunbar Community of Wise County. It will replace a well installed in 1938 by Westmoreland Coal Company that has furnished water for the entire Dunbar Community until the present. This well is being impacted by extensive past surface and underground mining activities. Proposed additional project funding will come through the Virginia Department of Health and the Wise County Public Service Authority. Total AML funding for this construction is \$1,505,000

Hurley Regional Water Line Extension – Phase II—Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission

This project represents the second of five phases of construction for the extension of public water service into the Hurley area of Buchanan County, Virginia. This project includes the areas adjacent to State route 650 (Lester Fork Road) in the vicinity of the Hurley Community Center approximately 4.6 miles to its intersection with State Route 643 (Hurley Road) and continues west along Hurley Road approximately 0.2 miles to the intersection with State Route 648 (Pounding Mill Drive). It then extends southwest along Pounding Mill Drive approximately 1.86 miles. Additionally, the service area extends south along State Route 651 (Old Lesters Fork) approximately 3.0 miles to the intersection of State Route 675 (Brushy Fork Road). This water project will service 222 households in the Hurley Road, Pounding Mill Drive, Old Lester Fork and Brushy Fork Road area of Hurley. Total AML funding for this construction is \$3,250,000.

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