



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER  
TO CONDUCT RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES**  
(Abandoned Mine Land Program)

IN THE MATTER OF: **ELKINS BRANCH LANDSLIDE PROJECT**

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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Division of Mined Land Reclamation, of the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to the authority granted in the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1979 (Chapter 19, Article 4, Section 45.1-260 et seq.) with funding provided by the **2015** Consolidated Grant, has determined and found that:

Land located **between Elkins Branch (State Route 642) and Enochs Branch in Buchanan** County, Virginia, has been adversely affected by past coal mining practices, to wit:

1. Property owners, both known and unknown, are hereby notified of the Division's intention to reclaim the area adversely affected by past coal mining practices. The purpose of this Notice is to provide notice to any landowners, heirs, assigns and devisees who may be affected by the proposed reclamation and who have not been identified and who have not granted written consent.
2. The public health, safety and property are endangered by: **a landslide resulting from mine spoil that was pushed over the hillside during mining operations that occurred before 1977. This landslide has partially blocked Elkins Branch. This could result in flooding of a several nearby homes and structures as well as blocking State Route 642 (Elkins Branch road).**
3. The proposed action, which may be done in several phases, consists of:
  - a) Construction and /or improvement of access roads as needed. Any new access roads that are constructed will be eliminated upon completion of this project.
  - b) Removing the displaced slide material and regrading the hillside to a stable configuration. All of the excavated material will be hauled to and properly disposed of on an approved disposal site.
  - c) A structure or structures to buttress or stabilize the hillside may be necessary.
  - d) Establishing positive surface and subsurface drainage as needed;

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- e) Revegetating all areas disturbed by this work. Approved seed mixtures will be used.
  - f) Standard erosion and sediment control measures will be utilized for the duration of this project.
4. Known property owner(s) in the area of the proposed reclamation are:
- L. E. Yates Trust (Charles Yates, Trustee)**
  - Michael McGlothlin**
  - Dan Perkins**
  - Connie Steele**
  - Carl Shortridge**
  - Estate of Llewellyn Shortridge (C/O Mark Shortridge)**
  - Jean P. Boynton Revocable Trust**
  - Buchanan County**

Based upon the above findings, the Commonwealth of Virginia, acting by and through the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mined Land Reclamation, its agents, employees and contractors, gives notice that upon publication of this Notice in **The Virginia Mountaineer**, and posted on the property, the Division will initiate and continue until the proposed work on the **Elkins Branch Landslide Project** is complete, and shall do all things necessary and expedient to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Such entry shall not be construed as an act of condemnation of property nor of trespass thereon.

For further information contact the Division of Mined Land Reclamation at the following address:

Attention: AML Section  
VA Dept. of Mines, Minerals & Energy  
P. O. Drawer 900  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

The telephone number is (276) 523-8206.

A copy of the this notice can also be found on our website at:

<https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/PublicMeetings/PublicNotices.shtml>

DATE 7-16-15 BY Randy Casey  
**Division Director**