



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, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638  
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237  
[www.dmme.virginia.gov](http://www.dmme.virginia.gov)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 30, 2014

Contact: Tarah Kesterson (276) 523-8146

Cell: (276)-356-3405

E-mail: [tarah.kesterson@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:tarah.kesterson@dmme.virginia.gov)

## **Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and Mountain Empire Community College Offering Online Certification Exams for Coal Miners**

**Big Stone Gap, VA-** The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) in partnership with Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) is now offering exams for some coal miner certifications online.

Those interested in taking the online exam can register through the Division of Mines E-forms program. Access the following website - <https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DmEforms/frmLogin.aspx?type=DMBC1> and click the "Add New" option to begin the application.

The exams will be given at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia and at the Russell County Conference Center in Lebanon, Virginia. There will be proctors who will oversee each exam to ensure security.

Mine Division Chief Randy Moore says this option in certification meets a long-time goal of the department. "We want to help our miners by having a more efficient and user friendly examination process in place. Our hope is that this is more convenient and accessible and takes less time. And, we'd like to continue to expand this program with Mountain Empire Community College throughout the Commonwealth."

The Institutes of Excellence Grant funded by the Virginia Community College System enabled Mountain Empire Community College and DMME to partner together to develop the program.

Online courses available for the first group of mining industry certifications include: Virginia Advanced First Aid Initial Certification, Virginia General Coal Miner for Underground and Surface, Virginia Mine Foreman

**-MORE-**

CEU Renewal for Surface and Underground, Diesel Retraining and Underground Shot Firers – Blasting.

Face-to-face classroom instruction is still available for Virginia General Coal Miner for Underground and Surface, Virginia Advanced First Aid Reciprocity and Recertification, Virginia Mine Foreman CEU Renewal for Surface and Underground, Surface and Underground New Miner, Surface and Underground Annual Refresher Training, Initial Mine Electrical Certification and Electrical Retraining at MECC.

For questions or help on registering, contact DMME's Division of Mines at (276) 523-8239.

###