



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

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DMME SCHEDULES PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETINGS ON NATURAL GAS AND SURFACE OWNER RIGHTS

BIG STONE GAP, VA – Senators Phillip Puckett, William Wampler and Delegates Clarence Phillips, Dan Bowling, and Terry Kilgore, state regulatory officials and the Virginia natural gas industry have scheduled town hall style meetings to present information about natural gas production activities to surface and resource owners. Three separate town hall meetings will be held the first and second week of June in Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan counties, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced today.

Senator Puckett and Delegate Phillips have asked to work with state regulatory officials and Virginia gas industry representatives to help gas and surface property owners understand the processes related to natural gas extraction activities.

The town hall meetings, which are open to the general public, will feature two presentations, the first by DMME officials and the second by the Virginia Oil and Gas Association. Topics in the presentations will range from the history of state rules and regulations governing natural gas extraction, how wells are located and drilled to options for participating in a lease agreement, among others. Following the presentations, state and industry representatives will conduct a question and answer session. In addition, state and industry representatives will be present at tables in an adjacent area to assist citizens, who may have questions about specific wells, leasing issues, Board activities or other related matters.

All of the meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The first of the town hall meetings will be held on Monday, June 1, 2009, at Mountain Empire Community College's Goodloe Center in Big Stone Gap. The second meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at the Jettie Baker Center in Clintwood. The third meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, in the Booth Center at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy.

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The Goodloe Center is located on the campus of Mountain Empire Community College off U.S. Route 23 South near Big Stone Gap. The Jettie Baker Center is located in Clintwood, two blocks off of Rt. 83 on Main St. (Rt. 607). The Booth Center is located on the campus of the Appalachian School of Law at 1169 Edgewater Drive in Grundy. For additional information concerning the meetings contact DMME at (276) 523-8146 or email DmmeInfo@dmme.virginia.gov.

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