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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2013

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Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Announces \$4.4 Million Funding Of Water Projects in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties

~Projects will provide public water to 127 households ~

Big Stone Gap — The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced today that \$4,445,600 in federal funding has been awarded for two projects that will provide public water to communities whose water supplies were affected by past coal mining practices in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties. The water projects have been selected for construction funding under Virginia's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) FY13 Grant to be released in April 2013.

"I am pleased to announce the funding of the fourth phase of the Hurley Regional Water Project in Buchanan County, and the funding of the Frying Pan Water Project in Dickenson County," said Conrad Spangler, Director of DMME. "I commend the initiative taken by the boards of supervisors in both counties to put together successful applications for these projects which will bring clean public water to a total of 127 households."

Hurley Regional Water Project Phase IV - Buchanan County Board of Supervisors: The Hurley project represents the fourth of five phases of construction for the extension of public water service into the Hurley area of Buchanan County, Virginia. The project includes the construction of two water storage tanks. This water project will serve 91 households in the Hurley area. Total funding for this construction is \$4,000,000.

Frying Pan Water Project - Dickenson County Board of Supervisors: The Frying Pan Water project funding is for the construction of public water service into the Frying Pan area of

Dickenson County, Virginia. This water project will service 36 households in the Frying Pan area. Total funding for this construction is \$445,600.

“Reclamation fees paid by the coal industry have funded the replacement of over 8300 domestic water supplies that were adversely affected by mining that occurred prior to passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977,” said Commerce and Trade Secretary Jim Cheng. “In addition to providing needed public water supplies, these projects also create a number of construction jobs.”

Virginia’s Abandoned Mine Land Program project grants are administered by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, which contracts with local engineering and construction companies for project design and reclamation construction services.

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