The Orphaned Land Advisory Committee Meeting was held at Stafford, Virginia on June 1 – 2, 2011. Committee members present were:

Mr. Walter Beck, Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA)
Mr. Phil Davidson, Mining Industry Representative
Mr. Billy Lassetter, Virginia (DMME), Division of Geology and Mineral Resources
Dr. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences
Mr. Palmer Sweet, Citizen Member
Mr. Steve Long, Virginia Department of Transportation
Mr. David Lazarus – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Ms. Alica Ketchem – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mr. David Benner, DMME Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) Director; Mr. Allen Bishop, DMM Project Manager; Mr. Aaron Siegel, Nonpoint Source Coordinator and Mr. Mac Hagy, DMM Mine Inspector, were present as ex-officio non-voting members and advisors to the Committee.

Committee members selected Virginia Vermiculite, LLC – R. E. Sanson Mine and Mill as the best nonquarry and overall winner in the DMM/VTCA Awards Program and to be nominated for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission National Award Program. Roanoke Cement Company – Roanoke Mine was selected as the best quarry.

General Shale Brick, Inc. – Roanoke Mine #15, Isle of Wight Materials Company, Inc. – Riddick Mine, Mid-Atlantic Materials – King George Mine, Nestle Purina Petcare, and E. Dillon & Company – Mine #1 were selected to receive Honorable Mention Awards.

The Committee by-laws were reviewed. Mr. Phil Davidson’s membership was renewed as the Mining Industry Representative as was Ms. Alica Ketchen, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Dr. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences.

PowerPoint presentations of selected sites that had safety and/or environmental scores over one hundred were reviewed. One hundred and three sites were inventoried and prioritized by the Committee this year. The inventory system continues to be enhanced in order to provide a comprehensive inventory of Abandoned Mineral Mines in Virginia.

A tour of the Government Island Quarry and The Cabin Branch Mine Orphaned Land Reclamation Project was held.