

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING ON THE
FY2007 ABANDONED MINE LAND CONSOLIDATED GRANT**

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR), Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Section, held a public meeting concerning the FY2007 AML Consolidated Grant on February 16, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to allow public comment on the grant. The meeting was conducted at the DMME building in Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

The meeting convened on schedule. The following attended the meeting.

Jan-W Briené	Froehling & Robertson, Inc., Williamsburg, VA
Edison Perry	Environmental Monitoring, Inc., Norton VA
Roger Williams	DMLR, AML Services Manager
Jan Zentmeyer	DMLR, Grants Officer, Moderator
Donna Puckett	DMLR, Office Services Specialist, Recorder

The moderator opened by reading a statement explaining that the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Briené then spoke. He was concerned about the planned sealing of old mine portals and the effect on bats, particularly on endangered species like the Indiana bat. DMME staff explained that mine portals are evaluated to determine if they are suitable habitats for bats. If the portals are habitats or potential habitats, and the portal is competent (i.e., not collapsing), DMLR installs a bat gate so that any bats are protected.

Mr. Perry spoke next and asked if there are funds in the proposed grant for the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) inventory. He also asked if there would be any new construction on the joint DMME/U.S. Corps of Engineers Powell River Ecosystem Restoration Project in Lee County which is addressing acid mine drainage. DMME staff responded that although there is no additional funding for the inventory this year, DMME continues to plan for future AMD projects. DMLR plans to place some 2007 monies in the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative and Special Set Aside accounts so that work on the joint Lee County project can proceed when the Corps of Engineers receives their funding.

The meeting was adjourned for approximately 10 minutes. After the adjournment, and with no additional attendees or comments, the meeting was closed at 1:25 p.m.