

Unified Regulatory Plan of the Virginia Department of Energy for State Fiscal Year 2023

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Virginia Department of Energy

The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) leads the Commonwealth to a reliable and responsible energy future. The agency regulates coal and mineral mining sites as well as natural gas sites for safety and environmental protection. It also is the leader in carrying out the Governor's Virginia Energy Plan. The Department operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

Virginia Energy provides staff support to the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, pursuant to § 45.2-1630 of the Code of Virginia (Code). Through its regulations (4VAC25-160), the Board seeks to encourage the safe and efficient production of natural gas in the Commonwealth while protecting correlative rights. Virginia Energy also supports the Board of Coal Mining Examiners (BCME), pursuant to § 45.2-515 of the Code. Through its regulations (4VAC25-20), the BCME requires certification of persons who work in coal mines in order to protect the health and safety of persons and property.

Individual Regulatory Activities for FY 2023

At this time, there are no qualifying regulatory actions planned for FY2023.

The next regulatory action anticipated by the agency is a repeal of 4 VAC 25-165, *Regulations Governing the Use of Arbitration to Resolve Coalbed Methane Gas Ownership Disputes*. These regulations govern an arbitration process for establishing ownership of historical royalties from coalbed methane gas extraction. The process has never been employed by any party and the majority of the unallocated funds have been released by other means. Repeal of these regulations would reduce regulatory requirements. This action is contingent on General Assembly action in 2023 to repeal obsolete legislation. If successful, the corresponding regulatory action would be filed in early FY2024.