



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
710 Locust Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

**EMERGENCY PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION**

**Fawn Branch Landslide Emergency Project (Site No. 13532)  
Priority 1: 1 acre (DS) Dangerous Slide  
Lee County, Virginia**

OSMRE DETERMINATION: Pursuant to 40 CFR Section 1506.11, OSMRE has determined the activities associated with this AML project do not constitute a significant impact to the environment, and therefore authorizes accelerated reclamation activities necessary to abate the immediate impacts to the public health and safety without prior completion of the environmental review requirements of 40 CFR Sections 1500-1508 (regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act - NEPA). This authorization is being provided in accordance with OSMRE directives (REG-1: NEPA Handbook; GMT-10: Federal Assistance Manual, chapters 5-11), and policy. This determination is based on a review of the proposed action and environmental conditions pertaining to this site. DMLR has completed consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for this emergency.

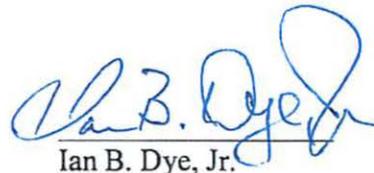
DHR responded its inventory files shows no recorded historic districts, structures of archeological sites located within the project's area of potential effects. DHR recommended a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed emergency project. The FWS determined there were no federally listed aquatic species in the area affected by the emergency action, and although there is documentation of the northern long-eared bat within 1.5 miles of the site, it is unlikely there will be any adverse effects to this species.

On March 20, 2015, OSMRE was notified by DMLR's Richard Davis that there was an extreme hazard caused by old mine workings near St. Charles in Lee County, Virginia. DMLR submitted the formal emergency declaration request package to OSMRE's Knoxville Field Oversight Branch on March 25, 2015. DMLR's field investigation revealed a landslide originating on the upper level of an existing gas well road (Snowden Lane), covering the lower level of the road and entering a portion of a stream (Fawn Branch).

There was an immediate need to act. The landslide created a high probability of substantial physical harm to the health and safety of anyone using Snowden Lane and for residents downstream of Fawn Branch. DMLR's concern is that if unstable portions of the slide continue to move, the slide material may impound Fawn Branch and possibly cause flooding of residential properties less than a quarter mile downstream. The emergency condition needs to be abated in a time frame not possible under normal State program procedures in order to protect the health and safety of the residents. Therefore, there is a need for immediate action and DMLR was authorized to proceed.

  
Tonya Mullins  
Physical Scientist  
Field Oversight Branch  
Knoxville Field Office

3/26/15  
Date

  
Ian B. Dye, Jr.  
Manager  
Field Oversight Branch  
Knoxville Field Office

3-26-2015  
Date