



Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program

Project Funding Request Application

The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (Virginia Department of Energy) referred to as Virginia Energy throughout the document encourages applicants to submit projects with the greatest potential to achieve the economic development goals set forth by the AMLER Program.

Review the [instructions](#) and [references](#) located at the end before completing this application.

General Information

Project Title: Project Junction	
AMLER Funding Requested: \$ \$2,000,000	Total Est. Project Cost: \$ \$2,000,000
Location (Physical) Address: Wise County (Penn Virginia Operating Company property)	Location County: Wise County
GPS Coordinates* (Lat/Long): Click here to enter text.	
*Photos and a site map identifying the location of proposed project activities are required as separate attachments.	

Primary Applicant Information

Organization Name InvestSWVA, Inc.	Contact Person Will Payne	Title Director	E-mail address Will.Payne@CoalfieldLLC.com	
Street or P. O. Box P.O. Box 16519	City Bristol	Telephone Number 804-393-8380	State VA	ZIP Code 24209-6519

Secondary Contact (from primary applicant or partner)

Organization Name Energy DELTA Lab, Inc.	Contact Person Mike Quillen	Title Chair, Board of Directors	E-mail address mquillen30@comcast.net	
Street or P. O. Box P.O. Box 16519	City Bristol	Telephone Number 434-534-2411	State VA	ZIP Code 24209-6519

Impact/Service Area

Counties Served Wise County	
Will AMLER funds be used to purchase Real Estate? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Estimated acreage: Click here to enter text.)	OSMRE AMLER Program Guidelines Category <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A & B
Anticipated Project Partners* (e.g. Local Governments, Civic Organizations, Private Business, etc.) Energy Discovery, Education, Learning & Technology Accelerator Lab (Energy DELTA Lab); Southwest Virginia Energy Research and Development Authority; Wise County and Penn Virginia Operating Company	
*Include only partners that will have a direct role in project management or work, or that will act in an advisory role.	

VIRGINIA ENERGY USE ONLY

Grant Year:		Problem Area:	
Click here to enter text.			

Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program

Project Funding Request Application

Project Details

Summary

Project Summary - Provide a brief, 1-2 paragraph summary of the project including how AMLER funds will be expended. Your response here should briefly summarize, not substitute for, your responses to following questions.

Project Junction represents a new, comprehensive, mixed-land use strategy that is tailor-made for Southwestern Virginia's coalfields. The region as a whole has certain assets that are attractive for development. With over 100,000 acres of previously mined property and ample clean water, the Virginia coalfields would be an ideal place for development if it weren't for topography challenges. Area terrain fragments potential development. Large pieces of property cannot be singularly developed without wasting significant swaths of land. Furthermore, most developable property in the coalfield region is held by resource companies that are not interested in piece-meal development.

Project Junction seeks to address these challenges by creating mixed-use development opportunities at a large scale and by bringing together numerous parties in order to efficiently use the entirety of the available land. InvestSWVA, which leads the Project Team, is evaluating multiple properties, up to 4,000 acres under control of Penn Virginia Operation Company, to deploy an industrial development, coupled with renewable energy deployment, agriculture and conservation. The initial focus would be the development of the industrial property, and grant funds will be deployed for site development, road and utility construction. However, InvestSWVA has relationships with large solar and battery developers, agricultural concerns in need of large land positions and private and public entities seeking to satisfy corporate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals that require land for deployment. By combining these developments on one large contiguous property, this innovative strategy will be a first for the region but also a model for future development throughout Virginia's coalfields.

Description

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Project Description - Provide a detailed project description and narrative. Please include information such as how AMLER funds will be expended, the anticipated project timeline, milestones, objectives, and challenges. If this is a multi-phase project, clearly distinguish what will be accomplished with AMLER funds in this phase of the project. Outline the role(s) of any identified project partners.

Project Junction is an up to 4,000-acre mixed-use development that is a solution to many land-development challenges that plague Southwestern Virginia's coalfields by combining several different land uses on a large contiguous property. InvestSWVA is the only economic development entity that has the relationships with the multitude of developers necessary to make this project a success. Coupling those development opportunities with a large land resource company with available land creates a model that can be duplicated time and time again leading to an efficient land use strategy. This strategy promises the best development opportunity for the region without wasting Southwest Virginia's most valuable asset: land.

Land in Virginia's coalfields is affordable and, having been previously disturbed by an industrial activity, is attractive for development. Significant properties can be purchased for less than \$1,000/acre versus millions per acre in certain more developed areas of the Commonwealth. This is important for several reasons: the need for shovel-ready industrial sites in Virginia and the need for energy development spurred by the Commonwealth's Clean Economy Act. Any developments placed on Southwest Virginian mine-lands are not without challenges such as topography and concentrated land ownership, but Project Junction provides a solution to these issues.

Southwest Virginia's topography presents a challenge to large scale development. Steep ridges and deep valleys do not yield large amounts of flat property. However, mining has left some areas that can be used for industrial development. Each of these flatter properties are surrounded by unsuitable acreage that has other value such as solar deployment, agriculture or conservation. With the required investment in roads and utilities for industrial uses, these other areas become assets for the other intended purposes. This creates an efficient land use strategy that doesn't waste property and creates opportunities for large landowners that are not interested in small developments.

Throughout Virginia's coalfields, public ownership of land is limited. Thousands of acres are held by land resource companies that own both surface and mineral rights. In most cases, it doesn't make economic sense for these companies to engage in small acreage transactions. This proposal intends to take a new approach in engaging and partnering with these companies on a much larger scale. Invest has developed relationships with these companies and gained trust through collaboration. This collaboration will result in access to properties where economic transformation is possible. This comprehensive mixed land use model, if successful, lends itself to implementation throughout the coalfields with other large land holding companies.

This project will address a critical issue of the Commonwealth of Virginia losing large industrial projects to the neighboring states of Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky as the result of Virginia's lack of investment in business-ready sites. Both the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and Wise County are now prioritizing the identification and funding of strategic business sites in order to make Virginia more competitive.

Industrial development will be the economic driver of this project. With the development of multiple pad ready sites, the project will allow InvestSWVA to showcase the southwest region in a way not possible in the past. The development of large 150+ acre sites alongside smaller 50+ acre sites will ensure that the area will

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be attractive and marketable to many differing scales of tenants. Partnering with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and Wise County, InvestSWVA will identify and seek out potential site developers that will bring much needed jobs and revenue to Southwest Virginia.

With the passage of Virginia's Clean Economy Act and its respective carbon-free targets, solar development areas are also in high demand throughout Virginia, particularly brownfield locations. InvestSWVA has been in contact with numerous developers who are interested in building in the Southwest Virginia area. This project model would allow for a 50+ megawatt solar development. This mixed land use project would be configured in a way that would allow power produced on site by the solar arrays to be used by industrial sites located nearby. The use of renewable energy would help offset energy consumption and cost while also providing a customer for the solar developer.

While energy and industrial developments are a key part of this concept, agriculture and conservation play a vital role in ensuring the projects overall success. InvestSWVA will identify agricultural opportunities across the project site and evaluate them for the best land use practices. Development of the agricultural sites will allow for continuous studies and testing to increase the productivity and ability to produce cash crops on sites where mineral extraction has occurred. Agricultural opportunities for grazing land also exist throughout the properties, and InvestSWVA will evaluate the properties to identify and secure property to be used for grazing. Conservation opportunities onsite lend themselves to making this a more complete project site. InvestSWVA seeks to identify and study the viability and feasibility of conservation areas on project sites such as this. InvestSWVA will evaluate the property to determine the best areas for conservation and seek opportunities to market conservation offsets to companies that have ESG goals.

AMLER Funds Expended

Although the overall concept includes numerous land use types, this funding request focuses on the industrial development potential on mined land. The coal economy trends are evident and there is an obvious need for long-term living wage jobs in the coalfield communities. Increasing the industrial sector can only be achieved by providing high quality sites that are marketable and shovel-ready for development. The AMLER program will help in this by providing funding to prepare a large industrial site and put in place critical infrastructure. This will include site preparation grade work, drainage and sediment controls, utilities and a high-quality access road.

Project Timeline

The timeline for these activities largely depends on the grant award. However, upon award, Invest and its partners will begin analyzing available property with the Penn Virginia Operating Company to finalize the targeted site(s) for this industrial development. After site selection, specific site plans will be drafted, and the Project Team will move towards construction as quickly as possible. Detailed timelines for construction will materialize based on specific site plans.

Milestones

This innovative approach to development in the coalfield seeks to implement a new concept model for large-scale development, while taking advantage of unique assets of the coalfield region. Although the model is intended to be transferrable, each site will be analyzed for the best land use strategies. Achievable milestones with AMLER funding will be a large-scale mixed land use model and implementation for industrial site

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development as a driver for other land use type development. Site specific milestones will materialize along with the development timeline.

Objectives

The key objective is to transform coalfield development. This innovative model is unique by:

- Large-scale land use concept
- Working with large land holding companies in partnership
- Engaging multiple partners with differing interest and objectives to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome
- Leads to an increase in diversified employment opportunities
- Strengthens the tax base
- Includes conservation goals
- Takes into consideration unique coalfield assets, such as water resources
- Effective reuse of mined land properties

AMLER Specific Objective

- Site preparation and infrastructure completed to market a shovel-ready industrial site

Challenges

One of the main challenges of development in the coalfield region has been the limited availability of land. This is, in part, due to the lack of publicly owned property. By working with large land holding companies, in partnership, InvestSWVA is positioned to overcome this barrier.

Partners

- Wise County has been a great partner in several other projects with the Project Team and will continue to lead the region in its effort to diversify the economy. The county will serve as the direct point of contact for the Project Team with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and be the lead on coordinating any available incentives and grants.
- InvestSWVA, which leads the Project Team, is a public-private business research, business attraction and marketing campaign for Southwest Virginia launched under the umbrella of the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and backed by private industry, including Dominion Energy and American Electric Power. The region's senior legislators serve as co-chairs, including Delegate Terry Kilgore (House Majority Leader), Delegate Israel O'Quinn (Deputy House Majority Leader) and Senator Todd Pillion. Coalfield Strategies, LLC, InvestSWVA's project team, works closely with local, regional, state and federal officials as well as industry experts and key public-sector partners, such as the Virginia Department of Energy. This team will work with Wise County on all local, regional, state and federal government interactions and serve as the lead coordinator of activities among the project partners.
- Solar Developers – the Virginia Department of Energy has interfaced with over 50 solar developers in the last 2 years driven by the Virginia Clean Economy Act's renewable energy targets and the associated brownfield requirement. These developers are looking for different opportunities, whether it be utility scale grid delivered or small-scale behind the meter projects. As the Project Partners consider the opportunities on this development, the Agency can bring in several developers that are uniquely suited for that opportunity.

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- Energy DELTA Lab is an entity that has been established in Southwest Virginia to create innovative energy deployment on mine lands. This model can prove beneficial in bringing new opportunities to the development and can secure additional grant funds.
- Dominion Energy is a significant partner in InvestSWVA and the Energy DELTA Lab. In addition, the utility is highly engaged in energy development in Southwest Virginia with its Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center coal facility and a recent announcement of a 50 MW solar project in Dickenson County. American Electric Power is the dominant electric utility serving Southwest Virginia and is another significant partner of both InvestSWVA and the Energy DELTA Lab.
- Tennessee Valley Authority has a small utility presence in the region; however, it has been extremely interested in conservation. A big portion of their upstream water comes from the region though the Holston and Clinch Rivers. The Clinch River is one of most diverse rivers on the east coast and a main target for TVA's ESG efforts.

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Eligibility for AMLER

Describe the AML features, abandoned mined lands, and/or any associated previous AML reclamation activities associated with the project.* If applicable, please include any proposed remediation and estimated cost.

Any large-scale development on PVOC property will likely encounter numerous AML features. The majority of the approximately 66,000 acres has been previously mined and many areas have been remined. The PVOC property intersects with 38 AML designated Problem Areas and 42 AML Projects have completed on PVOC property. Remediation of AML features will only occur, if necessary, for the industrial site preparation.

*Refer to Section II of OSMRE's AMLER Guidance for eligibility criteria. AML problem types (i.e. features) can be found on OSMRE's website ([Priority 1 & 2](#) and [Priority 3](#)). Known locations of features and past AML reclamation project sites can be found on the [Virginia Energy Interactive Map of Abandoned Coal Mine Lands](#). Surface mining permit boundaries can be found on the Virginia Energy Interactive Map of [Southwest Virginia Coal Mined Lands](#). AMLER funds cannot be expended on a site with an active permit.

Outcomes

Briefly describe the project's end use and anticipated long term benefits relative to Economic Development and/or Community Development, clearly defining and focusing on the benefits provided for by AMLER funding. Identify immediate AND long term project benefits, expected outcomes, and performance measures in separate bullet lists.*

As previously discussed, large development opportunities are necessary to entice large resource company landowners to participate. Often developments have to exceed several hundred acres to draw their attention. The biggest outcome of this project is to demonstrate that these large multi-use development projects can be successful. While demonstrating the value of the concept, the Project Team intends to create a number of immediate and long-term outcomes.

Immediate AMLER-funded project outcomes will be reported as:

- Quantity of energy infrastructure installed (e.g. number of transformers, linear feet of transmission line, etc.)
- Linear feet of road improved
- Acres of land prepared for future development
- Amount of energy produced

In the development of this project, there are four key long term expected outcomes that we will track and measure:

- Significant job growth with the addition of over 400 acres of industrial sites that can be used by enterprise scale manufacturing
- Deployment of over 50 MW of solar
- Designation of over 100 acres of farmland
- Designation of over 100 acres of permanent conservation property

*Refer to OSMRE's AMLER Guidance Section III and Section VII for example metrics.

Logistics



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Are Project designs available?

No or Yes

If yes, please attach.

Is there any ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) funding requirement?

No or Yes

If yes, what is the estimated annual O&M cost and source of that funding?

[Enter response here]

List the name(s) and contact information for anyone with decision-making authority:

Will Payne, Director, InvestSWVA, Inc. (804-393-8380 / will.payne@coalfieldllc.com)

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Budget

Provide the following or similarly structured budget table in MS Excel format ([download template](#)). Include all projected funding amounts and specify sources. Account for AMLER requirements such as detailed plan preparation, NEPA compliance, Buy American Act, building/environmental permit fees, etc. Refer to OSMRE’s AMLER Guidance and Virginia Energy’s AMLER Terms & Conditions for detailed requirements.

Expense Category	Funding Source(s)						Total
	Current AMLER Request	Other State [Name]	Local [Name]	In-Kind [Name]	Other [Name]	Other [Name]	
Engineering, Plans, NEPA	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Construction & Renovation	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Real Estate	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other [specify]	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other [specify]	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Source Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Status of Funds</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	<i>Select Status</i>	

Submission of a more detailed budget that further breaks down the above categories is acceptable and may be requested.

AMLER soft cost expenditures may not exceed 10% of the total AMLER funding request. Soft costs include project management, project development costs such as professional services for engineering, architectural design, NEPA document preparation, environmental studies, and permits as well as inspections and other services during construction. Requests in excess of 10% must attach justification including a detailed cost analysis of what the funds would be expended for.

Soft Cost Amount (AMLER only) \$200,000	Total AMLER Funding Request \$2,000,000	Soft Cost % 10%
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Attachments

Please separately attach the following items.

<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget (see above) • Project designs (if available) • Letters of support from identified project partners and other relevant parties • Site photos • Map(s) identifying proposed project activities and location of AML features or those previously remediated • Documentation of any other funding already secured or applied for (if applicable) <p>Suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business plan

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INSTRUCTIONS and IMPORTANT NOTES:

- i. Applicants are requested to submit a separate Letter of Intent by **March 15, 2022** UNLESS a completed application is received by this date.

The Letter of Intent should include:

- Applicant name and contact info
- Geographic coordinates of proposed project location
- Geographic coordinates and description of AML features proposed to be remediated and/or other eligibility criteria, if known
- Brief one paragraph project summary
- Anticipated amount requested
- Total project cost and the amount and status of any other funding sources

- ii. A completed application shall consist of:

- A. This completed application form, submitted in both Word and PDF format
- B. Budget
- C. Site photos
- D. Map
- E. Project designs (if available)
- F. Letters of support from identified project partners and other relevant parties
- G. Documentation of any other funding already secured (if applicable)

Completed applications should be emailed to Tarah.Kesterson@energy.virginia.gov by **April 15, 2022**. Handwritten copies are not acceptable. For full consideration, electronic documents for item A must be identical with the exception that a signature is only required for the PDF. Items B through G should be separately attached.

- iii. Projects must follow the guidelines set forth in in [OSMRE's AMLER Guidance Document](#) and [Virginia Energy's AMLER Terms & Conditions](#).
- iv. Because this is a federal grant for which Virginia Energy acts as the pass-through agency, awarded projects will comply with applicable federal and state laws including 2 CFR Part 200 and the Virginia Public Procurement Act.
- v. Funded projects typically hire contractors to complete work associated with engineering, plans, NEPA compliance, and construction. Projects should factor these expenses as well AML remediation (if necessary) into their funding request and/or overall project cost. OSMRE currently requires an environmental assessment (EA) be prepared for each project to comply with NEPA.
- vi. If a previous phase of the proposed project has received AMLER funding, please clearly describe in this application how this phase has separately measurable outcomes beyond the previously funded phase(s) and distinguish in your narrative, map(s), budget(s), etc. how the AMLER funds will be used.
- vii. This application and all material submitted as part of the application, including all project related-information if the project is selected, are subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.
- viii. Applicants are solely responsible for regularly checking the Virginia Energy website for any addenda.
- ix. Letters of support and letters of intent should be addressed to Lesa C. Baker, AML Projects Coordinator, Virginia Department of Energy, 3405 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219 and e-mailed c/o Tarah Kesterson, Public Relations Manager at Tarah.Kesterson@energy.virginia.gov. Please CC lesa.baker@energy.virginia.gov and amler@energy.virginia.gov



Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program
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NAME AND SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE


Signature

Director
Title

William H. Payne II
Printed Name

April 13, 2022
Date

References and Resources:

[OSMRE’s AMLER Guidance Document](#)

[AMLER Terms and Conditions](#)

[AMLER Grant Application Tips](#)

[Application Budget Template](#)

[AMLER Grant Process](#)

[AMLER Timeline Overview](#)

[Virginia Energy Interactive Map of Abandoned Coal Mine Lands](#)

Data layers show location of known AML features (AML>AML Inventory) and those previously remediated through Virginia Energy’s traditional AML program (AML>AML Administrative>Project Sites).

Virginia Energy Interactive Map of [Southwest Virginia Coal Mined Lands](#)

Data layers show location of known mining permit boundaries. AMLER funds cannot be expended on a site with an active permit.

[Federal Assistance Manual](#)

[2 CFR 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#)

[OSMRE Grants Resources](#)

[Virginia Public Procurement Act](#)

BEGIN

ADDENDA



2021 AMLER Application Addendum

Since submitting the AMLER application, we continue to hold ongoing discussions with Houston, TX-based Energy Transfer and its local representatives from Penn Virginia Operating Co. regarding this project and related business prospects. In fact, the nature of this unique site concept combined with the site's attributes, its strategic location and Energy Transfer's land ownership role have driven prospect development. As a result of our work over the last six months, we have developed four serious prospects, including a data center seeking a secure location, a greenhouse, a clean energy plant with carbon capture and a solar and battery storage facility. All four projects have indicated the multi-use nature of this site is a motivating factor for locating in Southwest Virginia. In addition, discussions with Energy Transfer and its partners have included representatives from these projects. Therefore, we are excited to leverage our mutually beneficial and close relationship with Energy Transfer in fully developing Project Junction.

BEGIN

**EXHIBITS /
ATTACHMENTS**



April 14, 2022

Mr. William L. Clear, Chief Deputy Director
Virginia Department of Energy
3405 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

RE: Project Junction AMLER Application

Dear Mr. Clear:

On behalf of the Energy Discovery, Education, Learning & Technology Accelerator Lab (Energy DELTA Lab) team, I am expressing our support for InvestSWVA's Project Junction and the AMLER funding proposal submitted to Virginia Department of Energy.

Energy DELTA Lab will sustain Southwest Virginia's leadership position in energy while delivering to state, national and global priorities around renewable, clean and zero-carbon projects. The AMLER funding will go a long way to leveraging the region's assets – more than 100,000 acres of previously mined property, more than 9,000 gas wells, numerous mine cavities and boundless water – in commercializing innovative clean energy strategies. Furthermore, we are working with Wise County on this project given planned industrial development will coincide with energy asset deployment and energy production. Our team possesses the expertise required to successfully marry these elements into what will be innovative approach to land development – a model not only for Virginia but also for the Appalachian region.

We have partnered with the InvestSWVA team in order to drive strategy and project development for the Energy DELTA Lab and to better connect energy technology development with economic and workforce development, in this case in Wise County. As a result, we are pleased to support the InvestSWVA application for AMLER funding and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Quillen, Chair
Energy DELTA Lab
Bristol, VA



Penn Virginia Operating Co., LLC

April 14, 2022

Will Clear
Deputy Director
Virginia Department of Energy
3405 Mountain Empire Rd.
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

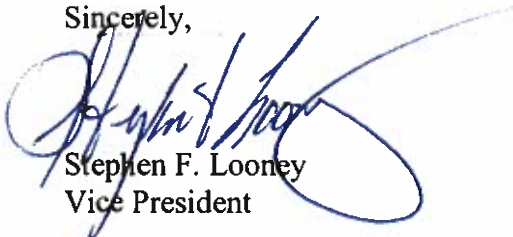
Dear Will:

Penn Virginia Operating Company (PVOC) is headquartered in Kingsport, TN and is a land resource operation with over 260,000 acres in multiple states. PVOC's land holdings in Virginia include 66,000 acres contained entirely in Wise, Lee, and Buchanan counties in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. A significant portion of those properties have been previously mined. PVOC's main business is maximizing the value of those properties for the benefit of its shareholders.

We have been engaged with InvestSWVA's economic development team in a discussion concerning a project that could use up to 4,000 acres of our Virginia property. This project would bring a mixed-use development that may include industrial, energy, agricultural and conservation interests together on one contiguous property. We share InvestSWVA's belief that this particular combination of assets creates a competitive advantage for the region in order to attract new industries to Virginia's Southwest.

This project aligns with PVOC's goal of creating value through the development of our properties. We support InvestSWVA in its efforts to promote and fund this project. Furthermore, PVOC will continue to evaluate this opportunity and hopes to bring it to an eventual success. While PVOC is currently under no obligation to participate in this development, we look forward to continuing the evaluation of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Looney".

Stephen F. Looney
Vice President



April 14, 2022

Mr. William L. Clear, Chief Deputy Director
Virginia Department of Energy
3405 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

RE: Project Junction AMLER Application

Dear Mr. Clear:

On behalf of the Southwest Virginia Energy Research and Development Authority, I express our support for InvestSWVA's Project Junction and the AMLER funding proposal submitted to Virginia Department of Energy.

Virginia's Southwest has been a leader in the energy sector for decades; Project Junction will bridge legacy with contemporary potential to sustain the region's role in energy production, across the global landscape. The Authority's members and strategic partners, including InvestSWVA, play a key role in the development of energy-related projects. Two examples are Project Oasis, which explains why Virginia's Southwest is a strategic location for data centers paired with renewable energy; and Project Energizer, which is designing pumped-storage hydro technology plants. These concepts are critical to launching what will be a model land use strategy. In fact, Project Junction's value add is that it blends industrial development with energy, agriculture and conservation in order to drive economic development.

Furthermore, the Authority's enabling legislation calls for the creation of an energy park, what is now called the Energy DELTA Lab, a 501c3 nonprofit entity focused on driving energy development along with economic development in the region. We will work together with the project team and believe that Project Junction is not only the perfect execution of the AMLER program, but it delivers to the mission of the Virginia Department of Energy. Thank you for considering InvestSWVA's application.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Quillen".

Michael J. Quillen, Chair
Southwest Virginia Energy Research
and Development Authority
Bristol, VA

Wise County Board of Supervisors



Office of County Administrator

COURTHOUSE

WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

TELEPHONE 276-328-2321
FAX 276-328-9780

P.O. BOX 570
206 E. MAIN STREET

April 14, 2022

Mr. William L. Clear, Chief Deputy Director
Virginia Department of Energy
3405 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

RE: Project Junction AMLER Application

Dear Mr. Clear:

On behalf of Wise County, Virginia, I am expressing the support for InvestSWVA's Project Junction and the related AMLER funding proposal submitted to Virginia Department of Energy.

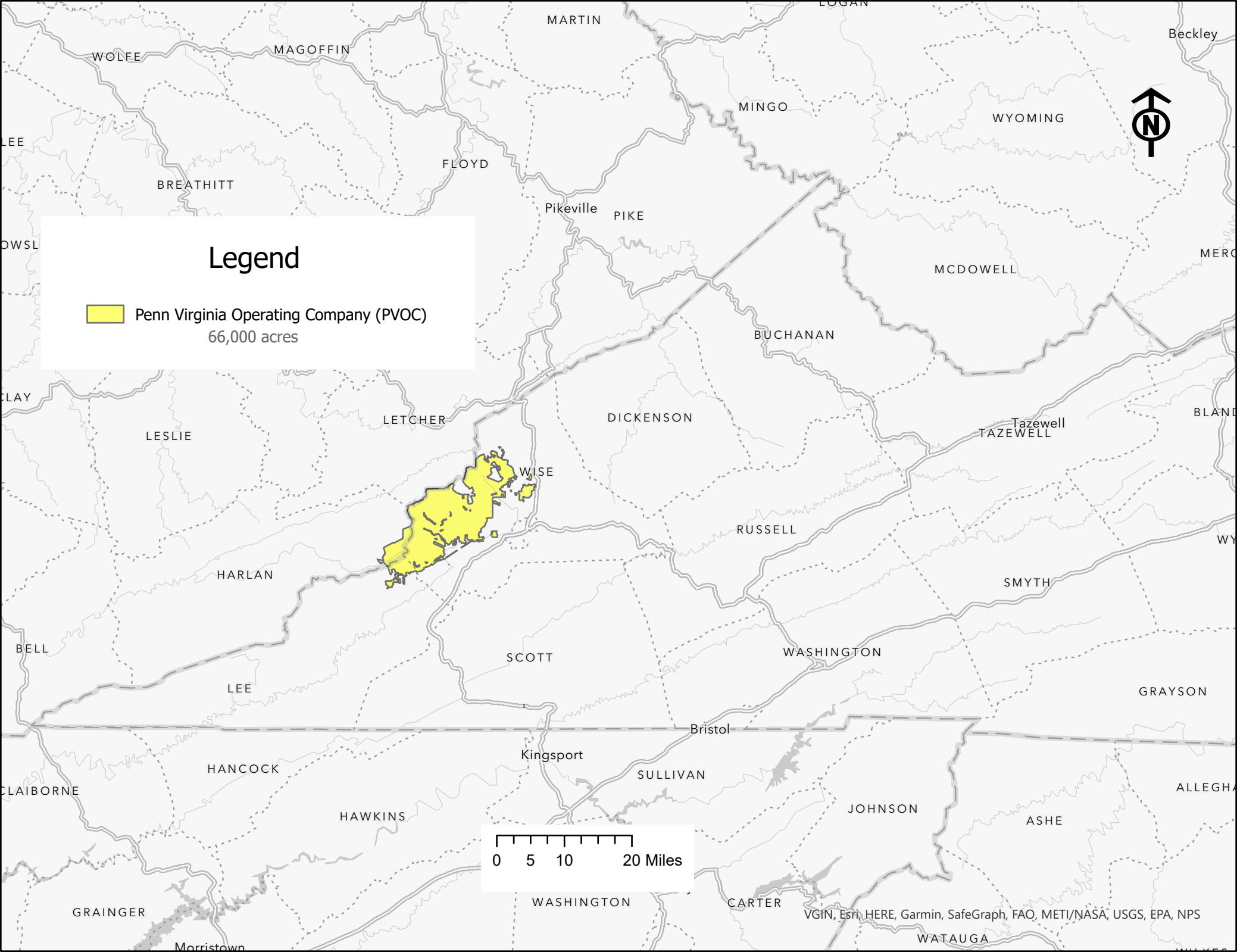
Wise County has been a center of energy innovation since the 1800s, and renewable energy is the next frontier. In this era, we are ready to define and position Virginia's Southwest as the energy innovation capital of the East Coast, with many locations in our county serving as labs for exploring several aspects of energy production. The Project Oasis case study, which is based on a Wise County site, is exploring the financial and environmental benefits of using geothermal cooling from underground mine water in data centers along with the siting of solar facilities. Commercialization and deployment of this geothermal technology is an important mission for our county. Furthermore, we are focused on ways to expand the county's industrial base. It is clear that we must pursue new strategies if we want different results. We are excited to join InvestSWVA in employing a mixed-use land strategy that connects industrial development with energy, agriculture and conservation. Project Junction does just that, opening another door to attracting private investment and jobs.

Wise County will serve as the direct point of contact, in partnership with the project team, with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and be the lead on coordinating any available incentives and grants. Furthermore we are actively working with InvestSWVA on recruiting business prospects, and this particular project will improve our ability to attract new industries to the region. As a result, we pleased to support the InvestSWVA application for AMLER funding and appreciate your consideration of this request.


Sincerely yours,

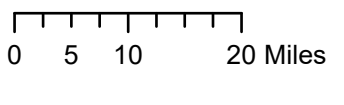


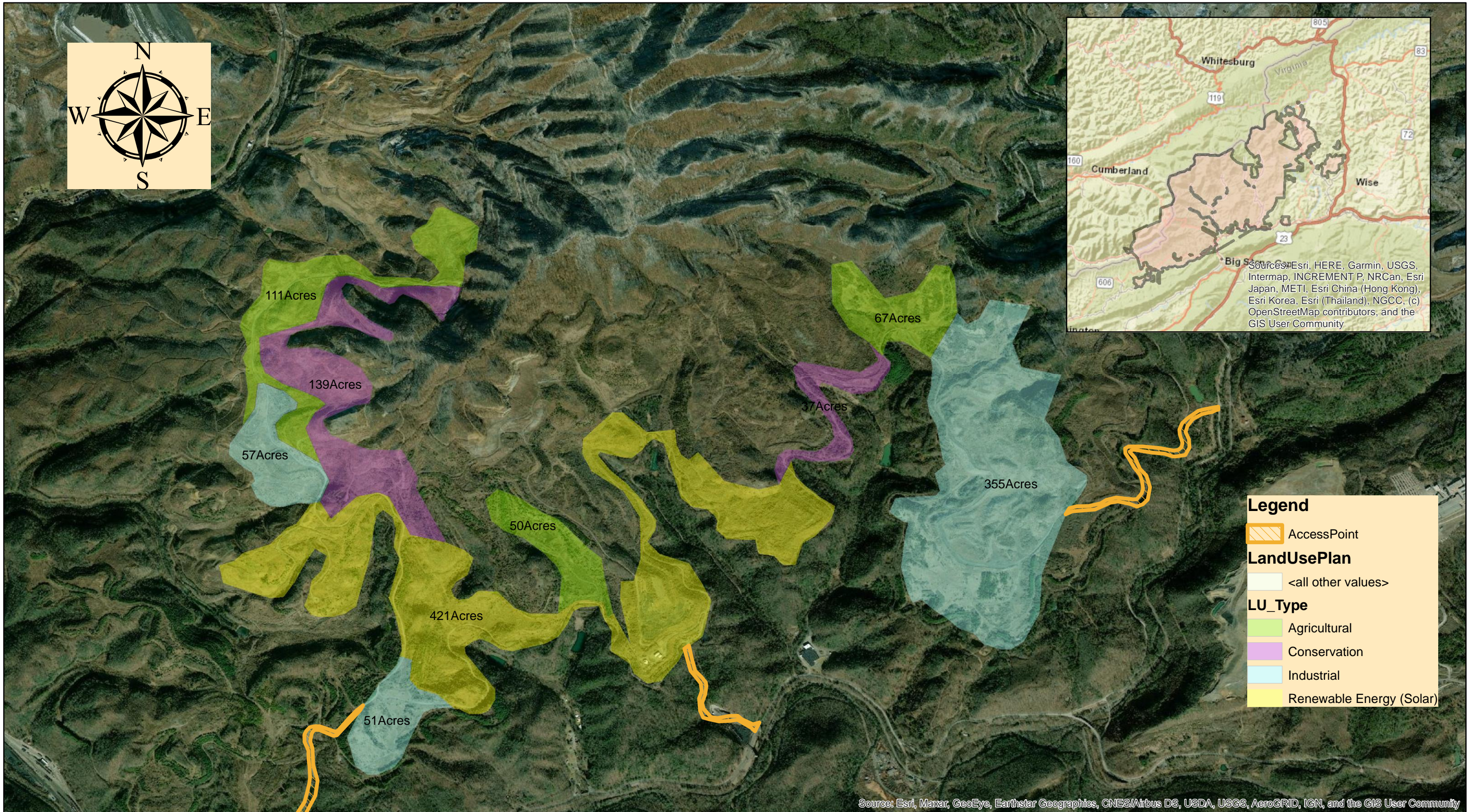
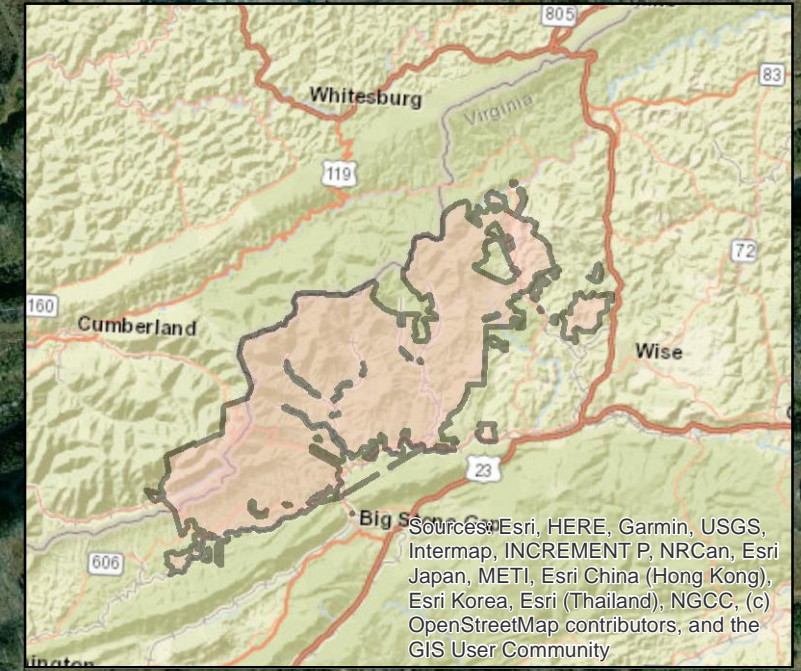
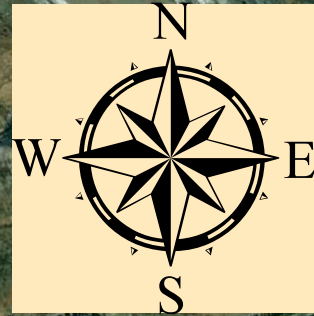
Michael W. Hatfield, P.E.
County Administrator
Wise County, VA



Legend

 Penn Virginia Operating Company (PVOC)
66,000 acres

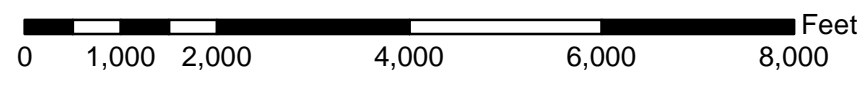




Legend

- AccessPoint
- LandUsePlan**
- <all other values>
- LU_Type**
- Agricultural
- Conservation
- Industrial
- Renewable Energy (Solar)

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



PVOC CONCEPTUAL PROJECT SITE