



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands Announces Phase I of Letcher County Waterline Project *Residents in the Mayking and Payne Gap communities will soon receive access to potable water supply*

Frankfort, Ky. (Dec. 2, 2011) – Access to potable water will soon be available to 181 households in Letcher County.

The Department for Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) announced today the award of contract and the start of construction for phase one of the Payne Gap-Kona water supply project in Letcher County.

"I am pleased AML is providing the citizens of Mayking and Payne Gap with access to a clean, safe water supply. Abating the hazards of the Commonwealth's water supply negatively affected by past coal mining is one of the many rewarding services the department provides for our citizens," said DNR acting Commissioner Larry Arnett.

AML has found that agency eligible, pre-1982 mining has impacted much of the groundwater in the communities from Mayking to Payne Gap in northeastern Letcher County, making the entire area eligible for AML waterline assistance.

The project, with a memorandum of agreement between the Jenkins Water and Sewer District and AML, totals \$800,000 with the remainder of funding provided by Letcher County's coal severance funds. The project will be operated

by the city of Jenkins. Akins Excavating of Corbin was awarded the contract with a low bid amount of \$1,213,502.50. Nesbitt Engineering, Inc. of Lexington provided engineering services. The entire project will involve the construction of a water supply system with rehabilitation to the existing booster pump station, pressure reducing vaults, master meter, and various diameters and lengths of water main.

AML is authorized under Kentucky law (KRS.350) to abate hazards to public health, safety, and the environment from abandoned mine lands. To date, AML has expended more than \$94.3 million for waterline improvements and has provided more than 13,400 households with potable water supply in 24 coalfield counties in eastern, southern and western Kentucky.

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