

27 permanent solutions include capping or interring the material, exposing the Commonwealth to a long-term
28 maintenance liability that would exceed the initial liability to reclaim the sites; and

29 WHEREAS, since VCHEC's commissioning, it has burned over 10 million tons of material and
30 has spurred a self-sustaining industry, GOB reclamation, that supports over 100 jobs; and

31 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth must fully evaluate both the economic and environmental
32 impacts of GOB piles to Southwest Virginia versus the impact of a fully operating VCHEC facility or
33 other approved facilities and gauge the complete economic impact to the Commonwealth should VCHEC
34 or other approved facilities be idled and the full liability of the cleanup be shouldered by taxpayers; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Energy
37 be requested to study the economic and environmental impacts of eliminating waste coal piles in
38 Southwest Virginia.

39 In conducting its study, the Department of Energy (the Department) shall convene a work group
40 of stakeholders featuring representatives from state and local governments, investor-owned utilities,
41 environmental organizations, the waste coal reclamation industry, and others deemed appropriate by the
42 Department. The Department shall hold at least one public meeting and shall create a mechanism to
43 receive public comment for consideration during the study.

44 The Department shall examine various use case scenarios ranging from capping all existing waste
45 coal piles in place to combusting all the material at VCHEC or other approved facilities. Each scenario
46 considered by the Department shall contain an analysis of the direct and indirect economic and
47 environmental benefits of that particular scenario.

48 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon
49 request.

50 The Department shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2023, and shall submit to the
51 Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and
52 recommendations, if any, for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and
53 report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems

54 for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2024 Regular
55 Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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