

News Release

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Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery construction update

DUBLIN—Following the first full month of construction, Branch and Associates, the company handling construction of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, reported that site clearing and installation of erosion control devices is well underway. Progress includes installation of silt fencing, site clearing and tree removal, installation of a temporary construction entrance, grubbing and stump removal, installation of a temporary sediment basin, completion of temporary electrical service, and preliminary stakeout.

During December, the company anticipates completing the temporary sediment basin, rough grading, stakeout and installation of temporary roads, removal of concrete structures associated with a demolished water tower, site grading for the committal shelter and columbarium areas, and relocation of the water line.

The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery is located in Dublin Virginia on an 80 acre parcel of line transferred from the Department of the Army, Radford Arsenal to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008. The cemetery will be developed in four phases as grave sites are needed. Phase 1 construction, currently underway, will cover 24 acres and includes the main entrance area, full casketed and cremation burial areas, a columbarium, a memorial garden and scatter garden areas, roads, an assembly area, committal shelter, cemetery office, maintenance complex, and supporting infrastructure. Interment areas will include 5,167 standard burial plots; 2,750 pre-placed crypts; 500 in-ground cremation spaces, and 625 columbarium niches. Construction costs are funded by a \$7.2 million grant from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration. Completion of construction is forecast for late 2010.

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