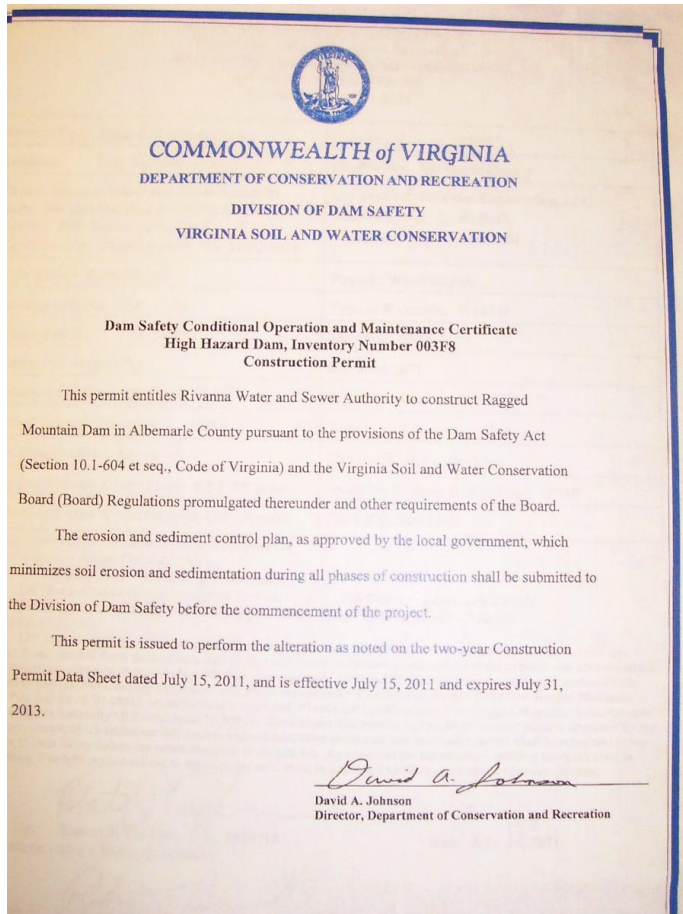


Virginia Dam Safety Agency Issues Permits for Earthen Dam



The Virginia Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management, a division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation charged with providing for the safety of the public regarding dams in Virginia, has issued permits authorizing the construction of the new proposed earthen dam. The permits also authorize a partial breaching of the two existing old dams to follow the completion of the new dam. Once the existing dams are breached, the Ragged Mountain Reservoir will be one continuous reservoir at a normal water pool level 30 feet higher than today's reservoirs, controlled by a single new dam.

The existing Ragged Mountain Reservoir is actually two reservoirs operated by a lower and upper dam. In 1978 this same state agency declared that the two

existing dams included an "unsafe condition" that warranted corrective action. The community has debated for years what steps to take to correct this condition. After an extensive search for a solution that included ten community meetings and multiple additional briefings with elected officials and public boards, a unanimous decision was made by both the City Council and Board of Supervisors in 2006 to pursue a new dam and expanded reservoir at Ragged Mountain as the best single solution to two different problems: (1) to correct the "unsafe conditions"; and (2) to assure sufficient water storage for the long-term needs of this community, both for humans and for fish. In 2008, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and United States Department of the Army approved the plan based on an environmental assessment under the Clean Water Act.

While the 2008 permits were based on the environment, the latest action by Virginia Dam Safety permits the project from a different perspective: public safety.

"We are very pleased to see the achievement of another milestone toward fulfilling the future water supply needs of this community, a project approved by both the City and

County,” stated Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director of the Authority. “The Division of Dam Safety’s charge was to review the detailed design of the new dam in conformance with safety regulations, and their actions to issue permits acknowledge their approval. While some citizens in our community would like to debate the dam over and over again, every federal and state agency that has completed permit reviews on technical issues regarding this project has acted favorably.”