

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010**

RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT REVIEWING 2004 WATER DEMAND STUDY RELEASED

Charlottesville, VA (Thursday, August 19, 2010) – The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) today released the recently completed report reviewing the 2004 Water Demand Study. The report, prepared by Swartz Engineering Economics, recommended that the Authority plan long-term for a future water demand of 18.45 million gallons per day (mgd) in the year 2060.

In reviewing the 2004 Water Demand Study performed by Gannett Fleming, Swartz states that “given the available data at the time of the study”, it “used sound methods to project water demand for Rivanna within the context of standard utility practices of the time.” Swartz’ review also looked at historical water demand data between 2004 and June 2010, not available at the time of the 2004 study, and concluded that there has been a step down in demand within the past eight years, estimated at about 1.4 mgd, some of which is due to permanent conservation in water use, and some of which may be temporary. Swartz noted, however, that the last eight years of data, added to 21 prior years of data dating back to 1981, is not sufficient to confirm a plausible new trend line for the next fifty years, different from the growth trend reported by Gannett Fleming in 2004. Swartz uses the 2004 projected growth trend, with a one-time step down of 1.4 mgd, to develop the new target of 18.45 mgd in 2060.

“Mr. Swartz had a very difficult job,” stated Mr. Tom Frederick, the Authority’s Executive Director. “He had to review a ‘crystal ball’ and advise us if there is a better one. I believe his review was done responsibly, given he looked at the full range of available historical data to set future targets, as the federal and state permitting agencies expect. However, I anticipate citizens within our community will continue to have their own opinions about the future depending on each’s own advocacy. In the end, the Authority’s Board of Directors will need to make the decision what water supply this Authority should build for the future, with advice from three other boards, while mindful of the risks involved if they attempt to substantially modify approved federal and state permits. I hope this study is helpful in that difficult decision.”

The Swartz review of the 2004 Water Demand Study will be discussed at the Authority’s Board of Directors meeting on August 24.

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