

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2011**

### **RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY VIRGINIA DAM SAFETY ISSUES PERMIT FOR NEW DAM**

Charlottesville, VA (Friday, August 5, 2011) – The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) announced today that the Authority has received permits from the Virginia Division of Dam Safety & Floodplain Management authorizing the construction of the proposed new earthen dam at Ragged Mountain.

“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.”

The state agency’s authorization comes technically in the form of three related permits. The first authorizes the construction of the new earthen dam, the second authorizes the “controlled partial breach” of the existing Lower Ragged Mountain Dam, and the third authorizes the “controlled partial breach” of the existing Upper Ragged Mountain Dam. The controlled breaches allow for a single reservoir impounded by the new dam and will be performed under the same construction contract after the new earthen dam is constructed.

The proposal to build the new Ragged Mountain Dam evolved from a planning process with significant public input that resulted in the issuance of federal and state environmental permits in 2008 based on an assessment of environmental impacts in conformance with the federal Clean Water Act. These latest permits pertain to dam safety, and the proposed construction will remedy an “unsafe condition” that the Division of Dam Safety has declared exists with the existing Upper and Lower Dams since 1978.

#### **PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:**

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