

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010**

RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY DREDGING FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORTS RELEASED TO PUBLIC

Charlottesville, VA (Tuesday, June 15, 2010) – The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) announced today the public release of three technical reports prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. regarding the Dredging Feasibility Study for the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir. The reports outlines for public consideration a two-part plan for dredging up to 1.1 million cubic yards at a project cost of between \$34 million and \$40 million. The 1.1 million cubic yard target would dredge 65% of the sediment that has settled in the reservoir since the reservoir was built. This target further represents only 22% of the 5.0 million cubic yard target that Gannett Fleming evaluated in 2004 as a water supply alternative to dredge repeatedly over a 50-year span.

The Authority also prepared a supplement to these reports comparing the costs of dredging and its associated benefits in added water supply volume against the plan to expand the Ragged Mountain Reservoir. “By comparison, the reservoir expansion will provide 1,726 million gallons of additional useable storage compared to 228 million gallons from this dredging plan,” stated Tom Frederick, Executive Director of the Authority. “Accordingly, when the estimated costs of the entire two-part dredging plan are compared to Schnabel Engineering’s recent cost estimate for a new Ragged Mountain Reservoir, the new reservoir is significantly less on a cost per unit of storage added.”

HDR’s study included an evaluation of beneficial reuse and identified a potential revenue source from sand recovery within 0.29 million cubic yards of sediment at the upper end of the reservoir. While dredging this upper end would only restore 59 million gallons of water storage (3% of the volume added by a new reservoir at Ragged Mountain), potential revenues could recover a substantial amount of the cost for dredging this small section.

“There are at least two overarching questions that different citizens are asking from this study, depending on their advocacy,” added Mr. Frederick. “One question is ‘can dredging provide our future water supply needs cheaper’, the second is ‘does the current market provide an opportunity for a small dredging project to benefit the South Fork Reservoir as a community resource.’ We believe the answer to the first question is ‘no’ and the second question is ‘yes’.”

In the supplement prepared by the Authority, the Authority is reaffirming that the Plan to build a larger reservoir at Ragged Mountain be sustained, but is also recommending that the Authority consider a solicitation for fee proposals from private contractors to determine more clearly if it is cost-effective to dredge the upper end of the South Fork Reservoir with sand recovery.

Copies of the HDR reports and the Authority's supplement have been posted to the Authority's web site at www.rivanna.org/. A public meeting has been scheduled for public input on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 6:00 pm at CitySpace on the downtown mall.

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