

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009**

RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT OF RAGGED MOUNTAIN DAM EXPERT PANEL RELEASED

Charlottesville, VA (Tuesday, June 2, 2009) –The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) announced today that it has released the report of its Ragged Mountain Dam expert panel summarizing the findings of the panel from a visit to Charlottesville in March. The expert panel concluded that there are significant opportunities to substantially reduce the cost for a new dam as estimated by Gannett Fleming in August 2008, and these opportunities can still retain all dam safety requirements.

The expert panel stopped short of offering a new cost estimate, suggesting that it would be prudent to complete subsurface investigations for the design prior to revising the estimate. The expert panel also offered a different methodology from Gannett Fleming for completing these investigations, and suggested that the Authority's next major decision is to determine who will be the dam designer. The Authority is presently in discussions with Gannett Fleming with respect to the panel's recommendations, and is expected to make a decision regarding the re-start of design services during the month of June.

“We have now had this project reviewed by three of the most knowledgeable experts on dam design in the entire world,” stated Tom Frederick, the Authority's Executive Director. “They have given us significant feedback, they have reassured us that our decision last August to stop the design work was justified and wise, and they have given us direction to take this project forward in a way that optimizes safety, performance, and cost.”

Among the major recommendations of the expert panel were to perform the design work of the I-64 embankment separate from the dam design, evaluate a different and much less expensive alternative for the left and right abutments of the proposed new dam, and consider a shallower dam foundation that uses specialized grouting for seepage control to avoid significant added costs of a deeper foundation.

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