

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RIVANNA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ISSUES FEDERAL PERMIT TO EXPAND RAGGED MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

Charlottesville, VA (Tuesday, June 3, 2008) – The Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority (RWSA) received a signed federal permit today from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) authorizing the expansion of the Ragged Mountain Reservoir for community water supply. This action follows the issuance of a state permit in February by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the same project.

Under federal law, projects that may affect navigable waters, such as the expansion of water supply, must go through a significant alternative screening process leading to a conclusion that the alternative selected is the “least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative”. By issuing the federal permit, the Corps is representing the United States government in confirming their agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia that the Ragged Mountain alternative is the preferred alternative that meets these legal requirements.

Federal action also comes on the heels of a 5-0 vote last night by the Charlottesville City Council reaffirming their support for the local plan that has led to the permit approval.

“We are extremely pleased by this good news for the community,” stated Mike Gaffney, the Chairman of the RWSA Board of Directors. “Local citizens have been talking about the need for expanded water supply for about 30 years, yet not until this moment have we had the complete approval of both the federal and state governments to move forward with actually building the infrastructure we need”.

Mr. Gaffney continued: “Our reaction to the news about the Corps permit would not be complete without also stating that we are grateful for the reaffirmation of support for the community’s local water supply plan from the City Council last night. RWSA works very hard to achieve our mission with the goals and aspirations of the Councilors, the Board of Supervisors, and this entire community in mind.”

The permit approved by the Corps includes the authorization to construct a new dam at the Ragged Mountain Reservoir, just west of Charlottesville, which will raise the elevation of water by up to 45 feet, increasing the useable water supply storage in this reservoir from 464 million gallons to 2.19 billion gallons. The expansion of this reservoir was included within a long list of possible alternatives made public in early 2004, and in response to public comment in 2005 the Ragged Mountain alternative was developed to include a new refill pipeline from the South Fork Reservoir. This plan received highly favorable public comments at community meetings in October 2005 and April 2006 and was approved unanimously by four local governing boards in

June 2006. Within the past month, both the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and the Charlottesville City Council have reaffirmed their support by unanimous decisions.

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