

The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority welcomed a visit from U. S. Representative Tom Perriello at the Moores Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 8, 2009. The Congressman was in Charlottesville as part of his five-day “Road to Recovery: New Energy for the 5th” tour of the 5th Congressional District, during which he focused on innovative new energy projects.

During his visit Congressman Perriello learned how, as part of an upcoming planned upgrade, the Moores Creek Wastewater Plant will use the methane gas that is naturally produced during the digestion of biosolids to produce electrical energy on-site and directly power portions of the plant. Surplus electrical energy that is created will be placed on the plant’s power grid, which will reduce dependence on the outside energy source, provide savings in operating costs, and reduce the plant’s environmental impact. In fact, the project will reduce the plant’s carbon footprint by 40% by the year 2012.



During his visit, Congressman Perriello was complimentary of RWSA’s efforts and indicated that this promising project supports his goal to promote new energy initiatives throughout the 5th District. Perriello commented that showcasing projects like this could increase awareness by the U.S. Department of Energy that there are new energy programs right here in Central Virginia that can help this economy. The Congressman discussed the potential availability of

federal stimulus funds to provide additional support for this “shovel ready” project, which is currently funded through a combination of Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund grant and State Revolving Loan funds. Competitive bids have been received by RWSA and construction is anticipated to start in June 2009 with completion planned in late 2012.