

##PRESS RELEASE##

Sugar Hollow Dam Rubber Crest Gate Repair

For Immediate Release

Charlottesville, VA... April 28, 2025...The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) is nearing the completion of upgrades to the Sugar Hollow Dam.

The Sugar Hollow Reservoir, built in 1947, holds 367 million gallons of water. The South Rivanna and Observatory Water Treatment Plants process this water, which is then distributed to the City of Charlottesville and the immediate urban ring in Albemarle County.

In January 2024, the rubber bladder affixed to the dam's crest experienced a mechanical issue, allowing additional water to flow downstream. This event caused RWSA to reevaluate the system's design and redundancies to prevent recurrences.

Last fall, RWSA lowered the reservoir to work on the rubber bladder and its piping support systems. The rubber bladder is located on top of the concrete dam and helps maintain the reservoir's pool elevation.



Photograph taken by Robert Woodside, GIS Coordinator for RWSA

The timing of the project was carefully considered. The reservoir was to be lowered after the summer's high water usage season but before the onset of freezing winter weather. While lowered, RWSA has had the time to evaluate, design, and bid out the desired modifications.

In the coming weeks, RWSA's contractor will perform the last modifications by welding together new pneumatic air supply lines that feed the rubber bladder. Once complete, the bladder will reinflate, allowing RWSA to maximize the reservoir's storage capacity.

The Authority continuously monitors, assesses, and enhances the systems and infrastructure linked to the community's reservoir dams. The current upgrades are a direct result of RWSA's commitment to maintaining a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority & Solid Waste Authority's mission is to serve the Charlottesville, Albemarle, and UVA communities by providing high-quality water and wastewater treatment, refuse, and recycling services in a financially responsible and sustainable manner.

*The **Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority** provides wholesale water and sewer services to the Charlottesville Department of Utilities and Albemarle County Service Authority.*

*The **Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority** manages five reservoirs, nine dams, six drinking water treatment plants, five finished water pumping stations, eleven water storage tanks, four advanced water resource recovery facilities (wastewater treatment plants), and nine wastewater pumping stations.*

In 2024, the Authority processed an average of 10.19 million gallons of drinking water and 10.20 million gallons of wastewater per day.

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