



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NORFOLK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT NORFOLK, 803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510-1096

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 8, 2008

Executive Office

Mr. Richard Collins
Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan
108 Wilson Court
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your July 17, 2008 letter regarding our permit (06-V1574) issued to the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority to raise the Ragged Mountain Reservoir. Your letter requested that I reevaluate our permit decision based on new information suggesting that an alternative to the permitted project (i.e., dredging the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir) would cost less than previously thought, and that our Environmental Assessment is inadequate.

The new information you presented consists of your summary of conclusions you say were reached by a different consultant after "conducting a two day preliminary assessment". Our decision documents found the dredging alternative not to be practicable based on cost and the lack of identified short term and long term disposal sites. The information you presented is interesting, and has apparently led to a local governmental resolution being passed that calls for a more detailed evaluation of that alternative. That seems to be a reasonable response on the part of the local governments. I would be interested to learn the outcome of that detailed evaluation, but I cannot justify suspending our permit and reevaluating our permit decision based on the cursory review that has been conducted thus far. Regarding the adequacy of our evaluation of project impacts, I find that our analysis is adequate given the scope of our permit review.

Please note that our Corps permit does not oblige the permittee to raise the Ragged Mountain Reservoir, it only authorizes them to do so. They may, if they wish, submit a permit application to dredge the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir if the results of their reevaluation lead them to reconsider which project they want to pursue.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dionysios Anninos
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding