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Serving the Counties of Greene, Madison and Orange

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rapidan Service Authority's Greene County Water System

Rapidan Service Authority (RSA) is a regional water and sewer authority which was founded in 1969, and currently serves over 20,000 individuals in the Counties of Greene, Madison, and Orange. RSA is a non-profit political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is governed by a Board of Members composed of two representatives from each of its three component Counties – as appointed by their respective Boards of Supervisors. More information about RSA, including the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, is available at rapidan.org.

As is the case across the United States, water and sewer infrastructure in RSA's jurisdiction is aging while demand for water and sewer services continues to increase. RSA customers should rest assured that their Service Authority is continuously working on their behalf to provide safe, clean drinking water – now and in the future. Funding major infrastructure improvements is a challenging endeavor, but RSA is committed to making the difficult decisions required to ensure progress.

In 2005, at the request of Greene County and in return for allowing the County to receive all new construction availability fees in the Ruckersville area, the RSA Board of Members and the Greene County Board of Supervisors signed the "Ruckersville Water System Ownership and Management Agreement," (hereinafter referred to as "the agreement"). The purpose was to facilitate the construction of various water infrastructure improvements within the County. Greene County agreed to construct these improvements by the end of 2008. To date, several major components of these improvements have yet to be initiated, much less completed. Among these pending projects are the White Run Reservoir Project, water treatment facility, and other improvements contractually agreed to by Greene County. Pursuant to a 2014 amendment to "the agreement," RSA, at the request of Greene County, began to charge, collect and transmit to the County, a water system facility fee. As proposed to RSA, this fee was to simply assist the County in paying its debt service on existing debt associated with the Ruckersville Water System and future costs related to new water facilities within the County. At the time of this 2014 amendment, the RSA Board of Members was not made aware that the County envisioned significant increases of the facility fee over the course of the following decade. As indicated by a majority vote on July 16, 2020, the RSA Board of Members has determined that the facility fee is unsustainable, and not aligned with the best interests of RSA's Greene County customers. As of July 17, 2020, The RSA Board of Members will require that all water availability fees in Greene County be paid directly to the Rapidan Service Authority in order to obtain water service and that RSA will no longer bill or collect water facility fees or sewer facility fees.