

VIRGINIA CANALS & NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY

3806 S. Amherst Highway
Madison Heights, Virginia 24572

21 December 2018

Mr. Steven VanderPloeg
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District Western Virginia Regulatory Section
9100 Arboretum Parkway, Suite 235
Richmond, Virginia 23236

Re: James River Water Authority Project

Dear Mr. VanderPloeg;

I have discussed the referenced project with members of our Board of Directors. We are in agreement that the James River is our nation's founding river and its history predates the arrival of our ancestors.

This site suffered its initial intrusion during the construction of the James River & Kanawha Canal. The subsequent construction of the Richmond & Allegheny Railroad only added to the degradation of the site. Allowing this project to proceed only proves that we have not learned from our previous mistakes.

It seems rather capricious that a project such as the one proposed by the James River Water Authority would even be considered for this location. The site has major historical significance and should be protected for perpetuity. Perhaps a public park would be a more suitable alternative for the site.

The pipeline crossing on the Rivanna River is also an item of concern. The Rivanna is possibly the second most historic river in the nation and every effort should be made to preserve the river's intrinsic beauty, history, and lost sites of archeological importance.

As president of the Virginia Canals & Navigations Society I am requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deny the permit for the James River Water Authority project at the proposed location.

Sincerely;

Roger C. Nelson, President
Virginia Canals & Navigations Society