

Norfolk Department of Utilities Receives National Award for Lake Burnt Mills Dam Rehabilitation Project

October 5, 2009

The City of Norfolk Department of Utilities and GEI Consultants, received the Association of State Dam Safety Officials' (ASDSO) 2009 National Rehabilitation Project of the Year Award for construction on the Lake Burnt Mills Dam. Ken Turner, engineering manager, accepted this award on behalf of the Department of Utilities at the ASDSO Conference Awards Banquet on September 29, 2009.

The Lake Burnt Mills Dam, located in Suffolk, Virginia, is one of a series of reservoirs and dams owned and operated by the City of Norfolk that provides safe drinking water to more than 820,000 residents and businesses in the Hampton Roads area. The \$13 million rehabilitation project included the reconstruction of the spillway and embankments, new intake structure and outlet pipe to the Western Branch Reservoir, along with constructing a new access road and parking lot. The Department of Utilities successfully managed the reconstruction of dam and the operation of the reservoir simultaneously.

The ASDSO Board of Directors selected Norfolk Department of Utilities for the "innovative and effective components of this important dam remediation project," which included a 600 foot long pipeline from the Western Branch Reservoir and a wall to allow the dam to retain the maximum expected amount of flood water without overtopping. Award applicants were judged in several areas including resourcefulness in planning and dam design, pioneering the use of new materials and methods, innovations in construction and operations, and reliability with accepted practices in the field of dam safety.



Lake Burnt Mills Dam during construction and rehabilitation.