



## HRSD NEWS RELEASE

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### **Virginia's First Industrial Water Reuse Project Ensures Wastewater Is Not Wasted Water**

**~ Secretary Murphy Launches Project that Supports Commonwealth's Environmental Stewardship Goals and Conserves Drinking Water~**

YORK COUNTY-- Hampton Roads Sanitation District and the Yorktown Refinery owned by Giant Industries, Inc., are ensuring that wastewater is not wasted water through Virginia's first industrial water reuse project.

Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., launched the project September 24 at HRSD's York River treatment plant.

"The partnership between HRSD and the Yorktown Refinery achieves two environmental stewardship goals important to our commonwealth," said Secretary Murphy. "The project improves water quality in the Chesapeake Bay through nutrient reduction. It also demonstrates an effective way to add to our water resources by reducing the amount of drinking water used to meet industrial needs."

HRSD's York River treatment plant is now delivering about 500,000 gallons a day of highly treated wastewater to Giant's adjacent Yorktown Refinery. Using this reclaimed water for cooling and other industrial purposes protects natural resources and conserves high-quality drinking water.

This is a project that pays for itself without cost to HRSD's individual ratepayers or Virginia's taxpayers. Giant Industries is charged a rate that allows full cost recovery of the project, while saving money. Over a 20-year period, reclaimed water will be approximately half the price of drinking water. The initial capital costs for the treatment plant modifications are financed through the Virginia Water Facilities Revolving Loan Fund. Giant invested in modifications to distribute the reclaimed water within the refinery.

To provide reclaimed water to the refinery, HRSD designed special biological treatment, disk filtration, and disinfection facilities. First-phase construction involved installing new filter equipment and additional tanks, pumps and pipes at the plant site and building a pipeline to the refinery. Disk filtration, a cloth-membrane filter that provides automatic backwash to remove impurities, was used because it offers several advantages to conventional sand filtration. A special biological treatment system will be installed during the second construction phase.

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"From Giant's perspective, this makes good business sense--we realize reduced costs while obtaining a drought-proof water source and conserving natural resources," noted John J. Stokes, senior vice president, refining. "We are pleased to partner with a public utility that is highly regarded for its history of environmental protection."

Rather than release effluent into waterways, HRSD continues to pursue markets for this resource. With minor additional treatment, reclaimed water can safely replace the high-quality drinking water now meeting the nonpotable demands of industry and irrigation. In Hampton Roads, ideal potential customers include not only industries, but also municipalities, power plants and others that consistently need large quantities of nonpotable water and are located near one of HRSD's nine major treatment plants.

"The future for water reuse looks exceptionally bright," said Donnie R. Wheeler, HRSD general manager. "HRSD supports innovative practices such as water reclamation that show a strong commitment to environmental and resource protection."

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*HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 1.5 million people in 17 cities and counties. Our mission is to prevent pollution, protect public health and support community development by providing wastewater collection, treatment and related services.*

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