

# South River Watershed Dam No. 10A Rehabilitation Project Augusta County, Virginia

Fact Sheet  
January 2014

## **History of the Dam:**

South River Dam No. 10A, known locally as Mills Creek Dam, was constructed in 1963 and is one of 13 dams in the South River Watershed Project.

The dam was constructed by the Augusta County Board of Supervisors with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Federal assistance was authorized by Public Law 78-534 Flood Control Act of 1944.

The dam was constructed for flood control and municipal water supply. Municipal water supply was only used from the lake for a few years due to water quality issues.



The rehabilitation of the dam included armoring the auxiliary spillway with concrete blocks that are cabled together.



A riprap stilling basin replaced a concrete box at the outlet of the principal spillway pipe.

## **Partners:**

- Augusta County Board of Supervisors
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Commonwealth of Virginia

## **Why Rehabilitate the Dam?**

The dam was originally constructed as a significant hazard dam, but was reclassified to high hazard in 2005. The dam no longer met current dam safety criteria. Sponsors were concerned that the auxiliary spillway did not have the capacity to safely convey water during an extreme rainfall event and a 2009 video inspection showed the principal spillway to be in poor condition.

## **Rehabilitation Plan Details:**

The rehabilitation project was completed in 2013. The auxiliary spillway was lowered by three feet and armored with concrete blocks. The principal spillway was replaced and a concrete box at the principal spillway outlet was replaced with a riprap stilling basin. The permanent water level was lowered by approximately 24 feet to increase flood storage.

## **Project Cost:**

The total cost for rehabilitation of the dam was \$1,503,612. NRCS provided \$977,348 in financial assistance to Augusta County for construction through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as amended by the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000. Local sponsors provided \$526,264 for land rights and construction related expenses.

## **Benefits:**

Rehabilitation of the dam extends the life of the dam and its benefits for another 50 years. It provides flood protection for 57 homes, 4 businesses, 5 churches and 2 major roads downstream. It also maintains access to emergency services for an additional 131 homes.

The rehabilitation project not only provides direct benefits to the immediate area, but also provides resource conservation, economic benefits and public safety benefits that extend well beyond that area.

## **For More Information Contact:**

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