

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VRA, DEQ Partner to Bring Much-Needed Funds to Chesapeake Bay Clean-Up Effort

*~ Two entities honored for their work with national EPA award ~*

RICHMOND -- The Environmental Protection Agency has recognized the work of the Virginia Resources Authority and its state partner, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in the area of water quality protection.

The EPA recently honored the VRA and DEQ with its 2007 PISCES Award. PISCES, which stands for Performance and Innovation in the SRF (Clean Water States Revolving Fund) Creating Environmental Success, is given to acknowledge and promote program innovations that advance EPA goals of performance and water quality protection.

Virginia was honored for its successful financial leveraging to make possible \$250 million dollars each year over the next five years dedicated to Chesapeake Bay restoration and other key water quality projects. Each year the VRA takes limited funds in a reserve account and sells bonds using those funds as security. This generates the much-needed revenue to impact the quality of water across the Commonwealth and in the Chesapeake Bay. The state program was also recognized for its innovative relationship with the Farm Credit Associations in providing low interest loans to farmers for the installation of agricultural pollution control practices.

“We were delighted to be honored with our state partner, the Va. Dept. of Environmental Quality,” said Sheryl Bailey, Executive Director of the VRA. “This partnership really is good for Virginia. With these critical water quality improvement projects our work basically boils down to DEQ taking care of the administrative and technical details while we take care of the funding. We each do what we do best and it works.”

“We are proud that EPA has recognized our efforts and commitment to providing substantial financial assistance toward the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay,” DEQ Director David K. Paylor said. “We greatly appreciate our strong

relationships with the Virginia Resources Authority and the Farm Credit Associations in meeting this challenge.”

One PISCES Award was given in each of the 10 EPA regions across the country. VRA and DEQ received the top honor in Region 3 which includes Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

In order to be considered, projects had to demonstrate leadership and innovation in one of the following criteria: (1) financing, (2) project implementation, (3) partnerships, or (4) sustainable infrastructure.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) finances innovative projects that increase the sustainability of wastewater infrastructure across the nation.

For more information, or for assistance in setting up interviews, please contact Liz Bryant at 804-225-5829 or [liz@alliancegrouppltd.com](mailto:liz@alliancegrouppltd.com).