

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Cindy K. Allen, DJG Marketing Director,  
757.253.0673, callen@djginc.com

## Safety Rest Area and Information Center Recognized for Energy Efficient, Sustainable Design

Virginia Department of Transportation's Safety Rest Area and Information Center off Interstate 64 westbound in New Kent County, Virginia, was recently presented a 2007 Engineering Excellence Award for its sustainable design features that help the Commonwealth move toward meeting Governor Tim Kaine's Energy Plan goals. The new Rest Area opened in April 2007, just 10 months after the start of design. The facility features energy saving and environmentally-friendly design in accordance with the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for New Construction guidelines. The new building achieved LEED-NC® Gold certification, and is the first Commonwealth-owned building to attain this distinction.

The new Rest Area Building is estimated to be approximately 75 percent more energy efficient than the previous facility. Energy efficient systems include a 32 vertical well geothermal system; a 100 percent outside air energy recovery unit; and high efficiency heat pumps. The geothermal wells use the constant temperature of the earth 400 feet below the surface to reduce the need for supplemental heating and air conditioning. Over the next 30 years, 36.7 tons of CO2 emissions will be eliminated from the atmosphere

due to the ground source heat pumps. Additionally, instantaneous point source water heaters are used and save energy at each restroom sink. VDOT is estimated to save \$10,000 annually from a 42 percent reduction in energy use versus a standard building.

The project site lies in a Chesapeake Bay area watershed; however, the existing site had no treatment of stormwater runoff. At 9,058 sf, the new facility is five times the size of the former facility and offers 42 restrooms, as well as a 106 sf family restroom. Creative site design not only accommodated the new larger Rest Area Building but also an on-site bio-retention system capable of treating 6,300,000 gallons of stormwater per year.

A capture and filtration system harvests rain water from the roof and re-uses it for flushing toilets and urinals. This system along with the low flow fixtures effectively helps conserve more than 1,000,000 gallons annually that would otherwise become runoff or would need to be supplied from a municipal water system.

The total cost for this project was \$5.056 million. An estimated \$1.5 million in construction costs were saved by preserving the existing concrete pavement parking areas.

The design and construction team was Williamsburg-based DJG, Inc. and David A. Nice Builders, Inc., respectively.

-END-