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THE COUNTRY COURIER

### **Reservoir Update** *By A. Kay Oxendine*

On February 12, the Williamsburg City Council will have a public hearing on their proposed contract with Newport News to purchase water and to help finance the King William Reservoir project.

All oral arguments have been cancelled by a federal judge in the reservoir project's federal permit. Instead of hearing the arguments, a ruling will be made based on each party's original briefings filed with the court, and this could take a few months.

This comes after a postponement of oral arguments on January 23, 2009. The parties involved are the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance to Save the Mattaponi and the Sierra Club along with Mattaponi Indian Tribe were scheduled to in federal court in hopes of revoking the King William Reservoir Project's federal permit. Their stand is that the Army Corp of Engineers violated the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the National Environmental Policy Act by issuing a permit for the reservoir in late 2005. Since the Environmental Protection Agency has the right to veto the permit, they all argue that the Army Corps of Engineers is in violation of both acts. The oral arguments were scheduled to be heard on February 27, 2009.