



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2024

Contact:

Chris Eleazer, Executive Director

864-972-3900

info@ojrsa.org

Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority condition update

SENECA, S.C. – The following is an update as of 4:00 pm Wednesday, October 2 for operations and conditions regarding the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA):

- **The OJRSA encourages the community to continue using caution in around creeks, lakes, and other waterbodies within and adjacent to Oconee County due to potentially higher levels of bacteria and other environmental hazards as a result of Tropical Storm Helene. Contact the local South Carolina Department of Environmental Services at 864-260-5585 regarding any water quality advisories they may have in place.**
- It has been estimated that a total of 5,275,800 gallons of untreated wastewater was spilled from OJRSA facilities during this unprecedented event. The agency has remained in contact with SCDES throughout and have taken all requested actions to ensure that public health and the environment have been protected throughout the emergency.
- The Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility continues to operate in normal status and is treating wastewater at a rate of 2,400 gallons per minute (3.5 million gallons per day), which includes the treatment of stored flow. All flow stored at the offsite location has been safely reintroduced into the sewer collection system for treatment at the facility.
- Staff have inspected 60-70% of our sewer easements. Other than a considerable number of fallen trees and some minor damage to manhole structures and creek banks, there has been nothing observed that caused immediate concern. Tree removal and repairs will begin as soon as possible.
- All pump stations are now on utility power.

Contact the OJRSA at 864-972-3900 with any questions.

About the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority:

The Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA) is a governmental agency providing wastewater treatment service to the cities of Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, the town of West Union and their surrounding areas. Learn more at www.ojrsa.org.

###