



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE: Tropical Storm Helene impacting sewer service in Oconee County

SENECA, S.C. – The Oconee County Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA) continues to monitor the aftermath of the unprecedented storms that affected our region.

As of 11:00 am Saturday, September 28:

- The treatment plant was placed back into operation this morning around 8:30. We are currently treating 4,070 gallons per minute (approximately 5.86 million gallons per day). The plant has continued to meet or exceed all permitted limits for all water that has been processed at the facility. As expected, there is a lot of grit (sand, silt, etc.) in the flow coming into the plant.
- We are still storing over 10 million gallons on- and offsite. We are treating this flow as we are able.
- Since the creek flows have receded, we are now able to place some of the pump stations back into operation.
- We are considering having staff begin assessing the easements and aerial lines today. The reason this is a difficult decision to make is because we know the ground in these areas will be saturated and it will be extremely difficult to traverse without getting frequently stuck.
- Overflows at the treatment plant have ceased with the startup of the facility. Staff are assessing conditions in the field when checking/starting pump stations.

If customers observe an overflow, they should avoid the area and notify the OJRSA by calling 864-972-3900.

People and pets should avoid all floodwaters and waterbodies in the area due to potential wastewater contamination or other hazards until the notice is rescinded.

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.

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