



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority condition update

SENECA, S.C. – The following is an update as of 4:30 pm Monday, September 30 for operations and conditions regarding the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority (OJRSA):

- **The following advisories and requests shall continue to remain in place for the foreseeable future:**
 - **People and pets should avoid contact with all creeks and waterbodies in the area due to potential wastewater contamination or other environmental hazards.** The OJRSA and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (formerly the Department of Health and Environmental Control) will continue to monitor the situation to determine when this advisory can be repealed.
 - **If customers observe a possible overflow of wastewater from a manhole or other vault, they should avoid the area and notify the OJRSA by calling 864-972-3900.**
- The Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility has returned to “normal operating status” as the grit and sludge pumps have been unclogged. The amount of flow treated continues to trend downward, which is a good indication that there has been a considerable reduction in stormwater entering the sewer system. The current treatment rate is 3,500 gallons per minute (5.1 million gallons per day), which includes the treatment of stored flow. The OJRSA is currently storing about 2.0 million gallons onsite and 1.6 million gallons at our offsite storage tank and releasing it into the treatment process as we are able. It will take several more days to treat the stored flow.
- With the startup of the Duck Pond Pump Station earlier today, the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) at Duck Pond Reservoir has ceased. There are no more known SSOs within the OJRSA’s system at this time.
- Current breakdown for power service at our critical pump and treatment facilities:
 - On utility power: 14, including the treatment plant
 - On generator power and operational: 2
 - No power and not operational: 1 – Pelham Creek Pump Station. We will continue a pump-and-haul operation from the storage vessel at the station on an as-needed basis.
 - Out of service/offline: 0
- The OJRSA has remained in communication with the Department of Environmental Services throughout the emergency. We are currently working with the agency regarding the documentation of spills and operational matters.

Beginning Tuesday, October 1, the OJRSA will begin providing an update late each afternoon until all of the utility’s assets can be verified to be in normal condition.

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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