



Fall 2008

NewsSPLASH

A publication of the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority



BJWSA Now Includes Military Water & Wastewater Systems

Since 1965, we have been supplying local military installations with water on a wholesale basis; they owned and operated their own water and wastewater facilities. Now these facilities are part of the BJWSA system.

On September 1, 2008, BJWSA assumed ownership, operations and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems at the Marine Corps Air Station, Laurel Bay Housing, the Naval Hospital Beaufort, and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. As part of the merger, the four utility systems will receive a number of upgrades and safety improvements. In addition, due to more restrictive Beaufort River discharge requirements, the military wastewater plants at the Air Station and Parris Island will be eliminated. The wastewater flows will be diverted to our new state-of-the-art Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility.

Pump stations will be constructed at Marine Corps Air Station and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, along with pipelines connecting to the Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility. Also, a 2.5 million gallon equalization tank will be added on Parris Island. The pipeline from Parris Island will be installed under Archer's Creek, using horizontal directional drilling to ensure minimal impact on the creek and surrounding marsh area. Construction is expected to begin in June 2009, with the pump stations completed and operating in August 2010.

BJWSA has identified a preliminary route for the pipelines needed to deliver the wastewater to the Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility, and surveying is underway. This route is based on the alignment having the least community and environmental impacts. Once the route has been finalized, a public meeting will be held to provide project details and schedules and to answer any questions.

A Message from the General Manager

Making the military bases a part of the BJWSA system benefits our customers and the environment. Future operating and debt service costs will be spread over a larger customer base, lessening the effect of future rate increases on all customers.

The U.S. Department of the Navy is paying for the rehabilitation of the infrastructure to meet industry standards, the full costs of constructing the pipelines needed to carry wastewater to our water reclamation facility, and the demolition of two wastewater plants. BJWSA will charge the Navy a flat fee for system operation and maintenance, as well as water distribution and wastewater collection.

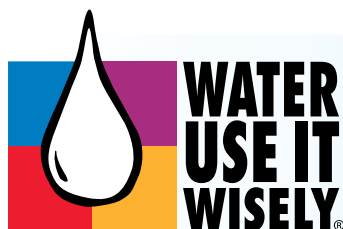
By treating wastewater at our Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility, rather than the military facilities, we will be returning much higher quality water to local waterways. Our facility meets new, more stringent discharge permit limits and will allow the eventual reuse of that water for irrigation. And by consolidating wastewater treatment services at our facility,

there will be one discharge instead of three. We will eliminate the military discharges into Albergotti Creek and parts of the Beaufort River, creating a potential opportunity to reopen closed shellfish beds in those areas.

The consolidation is an efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally beneficial solution to the problem of aging military water and wastewater systems. This cooperative effort ensures that our military forces here in Beaufort County continue to have safe, reliable water and wastewater services without using funds critical to their mission - and that is ultimately a benefit to all of us.



William D. Moss, Jr.
General Manager



Although we're fortunate here in the low country not to be suffering from the crippling drought affecting much of our state, we should always use our water wisely.
Inside: Tips on how to find water leaks in your home...



A First — Water Reuse for Residential Irrigation

During our hot lowcountry summers, irrigation causes a significant increase in water usage and, as a result, a greater demand on our water

system. While most wastewater treatment facilities discharge their treated water to a river or a lake, BJWSA has been a leader in reusing reclaimed water for irrigation.

Early this spring, we began our first water reuse service for residential irrigation to the Tradition Hilton Head community. BJWSA will be supplying reclaimed water for all of their irrigation needs, including residential lots, common areas, landscaped medians and their golf course.

The Tradition irrigation system is not only a BJWSA first, but the first system of its type in South Carolina. In our hot low-country climate, irrigation causes a huge increase in water usage in the summer months. Water reuse for residential irrigation is a significant step forward in using an alternative water source and reducing the peak demand on our drinking water system.

For many years, BJWSA has been providing treated wastewater to golf courses for much needed irrigation — a win-win solution for this water-hungry industry. BJWSA currently serves 12 golf courses from its Cherry Point Water Reclamation Facility, with two more scheduled to come on line very soon. Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility provides irrigation water to the Secession Golf Course and has the capacity to serve additional courses. Our Palmetto Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant provides irrigation water to the May River Golf Club. The St. Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant irrigates the two golf courses on Dataw Island and a portion of Henry's Sod Farm.

BJWSA has worked steadily at raising the quality of our reclaimed water so that it can be used for residential irrigation. We have upgraded the Cherry Point Water Reclamation Facility and built the new Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility to meet a higher, reclaimed water standard. Reclaimed water from these facilities can be reused with very few restrictions. It's practical water recycling that benefits the environment and our communities.



Service Capacity Increases at Cherry Point

As Bluffton and the 278/Hardeeville corridor have grown, so has the need for wastewater treatment services. As a result, BJWSA has expanded the Cherry Point Water Reclamation Facility from a capacity of 3.2 to 7.5 million gallons a day (mgd).

This state-of-the-art facility has Advanced Biological Nutrient Removal Filtration and meets the standards for reuse (see this newsletter's article *A First - Water Reuse for Residential Irrigation*). Ultra-violet (UV) disinfection is also being added to the process as a replacement for chlorine.

In anticipation of continued community growth, this \$30 million dollar upgrade project includes infrastructure to allow for three more phases of expansion, with a total capacity of 18 mgd. The facility will continue to meet water reuse standards with future expansions.

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Dean Moss General Manager

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Need More Information?

Contact Jerrie Legare, BJWSA Communications Manager at 987-9213 or jerriel@bjwsa.org.

South Carolina Drought Update

Extreme to exceptional drought conditions still persist across much of upstate South Carolina, including the upper portion of the Savannah River Basin — our water supply.

In 2008, precipitation was near or slightly below normal for January through March, usually the most likely times that rainfall or floods result in large amounts of runoff in the Savannah River Basin. This rainfall has not been sufficient for a full recovery from the ongoing drought. Fortunately, Beaufort and Jasper counties still have adequate water supplies. At this time, the Savannah River has enough for our needs at our water withdrawal location.

The amount of water available where BJWSA makes withdrawals depends heavily upon the release of water from Lake Thurmond, part of the reservoir system in the Upper Savannah River Basin. In mid-August of this year, Lake Thurmond fell to its lowest level since 2002 - 14 feet below full pool - and the reservoir system entered Drought Level 3. Although this level typically requires the Corps of Engineers to reduce releases from Lake Thurmond to no more than 3600 cubic feet per second (approximately 2.3 billion gallons per day), the Corps has been releasing that amount since October 2007.

The Corps is collaborating with other natural resource agencies to take additional action in the event that drought conditions continue, inflow does not improve and the level at Lake Thurmond reaches 15 feet down. The states of Georgia and South Carolina are developing a plan to explore a temporary measure of lowering releases to below the current 3600 cubic feet per second. The objective is to slow decline in the three reservoirs (Lake Hartwell, Lake Russell and Lake Thurmond) and reduce the chance of running out of conservation storage, while balancing the potential impacts downstream.

Source: <http://water.sas.usace.army.mil/cf/KavaPlot/whatsgoingon.htm>

BJWSA Board Approves Capital Improvements

The BJWSA Board has approved the 2009-2011 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that includes improvement, replacement and expansion projects totaling \$245 million over the next ten years. The CIP prioritizes the construction of projects based on near-term (3-year) and long-term (10-year) system needs. The Plan is updated every three years.

Some CIP projects must be done to meet increased demands for service, to replace defective systems or equipment, to eliminate unsafe conditions, or to meet contractual or regulatory requirements. Some projects are discretionary; they are not highly critical but may be done to better serve existing and future customers, to benefit environmental and public health, to improve customer service, or to increase system reliability, safety, productivity, or efficiency. BJWSA places these discretionary projects in the CIP for implementation as funding allows, starting with the highest ranked endeavors.

Major CIP Projects scheduled for the next 3 years:

Military Wastewater Consolidation Project	\$16.3M
Chelsea Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$2.7M
Okatie Wastewater Transmission Improvements	\$4.9M
South Beaufort County Water Storage, Pump Station, and Aquifer Storage & Recovery	\$6.0M

As we move into fall and winter, now is a good time to turn your water saving efforts indoors and check for leaks. Leaks cause water and your money to go down the drain. Studies have shown homes can waste more than 10% due leaking, which costs both you and the environment.



Toilets

Leaky toilets, even though they are usually silent, can waste more water than any other fixture in the home - up to several hundred gallons per day. Check for toilet leaks by putting a little food coloring in the tank. Wait 30 minutes. DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET. If the water in the bowl changes color, you have a leak. Leaky toilets often can be fixed by adjusting the float arm or plunger ball.

Faucets

A continuously dripping bathtub or sink faucet can waste 20 gallons or more per day. Repairing a faucet is usually as simple as changing an inexpensive washer or valve seal. If you see a dripping faucet, fix it as soon as possible - all those drips add up quickly!

60 drops per minute = 192 gallons per month
 90 drops per minute = 310 gallons per month
 120 drops per minute = 429 gallons per month



Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority

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- Water quality
- Water conservation
- Wastewater treatment
- Outages and emergencies
- Payment policies and options
- How your money is used
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Fund Continues to Help People in Need

Fourteen low-income families were able to receive water and sewer services in FY2008, thanks to the Thad Coleman Fund and the support of our customers.

Beaufort County, BJWSA and our customers provide the monies for this worthwhile program. Residents in the BJWSA service area, both Beaufort and Jasper Counties, can use the fund to pay for capacity and tap fees required to connect to the public water and sewer system. The fund cannot be used to pay monthly water and sewer bills. Eligibility for the Thad Coleman Fund is based on income using the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Round Up Your Bill For the Less Fortunate



As a customer, you can help people who need basic water and sewer services but cannot afford the connection fees. Simply allow us to round up your monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar. Those few pennies every month from many customers add up to a lot of help for those less fortunate. To contribute, go to our website or call Customer Service:

Beaufort 987-9200 Hardeeville 784-2232
Bluffton 757-2667