



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Chris Eleazer, Executive Director

864-972-3900

info@ojrsa.org

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 6:30 pm Friday, September 27:

- All 16 OJRSA pump stations are off for one or more of the following reasons: (1) Generators are running out of fuel and we will not be able to receive fuel deliveries until Saturday, (2) the upstream gravity sewers are underwater and we are essentially pumping creek water, which is then inundating the downstream gravity system, thus just shifting the areas where the overflows are occurring, and/or (3) the pumps are not able to keep up with the inflow of stormwater. We hope to have many, if not all, back online Saturday. As a result of these stations being unavailable, there are multiple sanitary sewer overflows in the service area. We hope to have the facilities back in operation as soon as possible
- Even though we are not able to pump flow into the treatment plant, we are still treating wastewater as we are drawing down on water contained in onsite storage basins and tanks. We are treating as much as we're capable of pushing through the process.
- We estimate that it will be at least Sunday before we will be able to assess any of the pipelines on "cross country" easements, which most of ours are as they're located along creekbanks that are currently flooded.

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floodwaters and waterbodies in the area due to potential wastewater contamination or other hazards until the notice is rescinded.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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