



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BJWSA Still Coping with the Effects of Tropical Storm Debby

Okatie, SC (August 19, 2024) – Lowcountry water treatment plants are still feeling impacts from Tropical Storm Debby's recent visit. As floodwaters receded from upstream forests and wetlands, the level of organic material and dissolved minerals in the Savannah River increased significantly. Increased organic content and minerals have contributed to discolored water issues in some areas. The river is the primary source of water for Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA).

BJWSA has adjusted its treatment process and continues to closely monitor raw water conditions. The utility is also increasing the amount of water pulled from other sources, including wells and its Purrysburg reservoir.

The Authority's ability to thoroughly disinfect water to make it safe has not been affected. Customers may want to postpone washing laundry, especially light-colored fabrics, as staining is possible. Flushing water mains and in-home plumbing is not likely to clear the discoloration because this is not a localized issue.

BJWSA is continuing to closely monitor water quality and the organic content of the river. The issue is likely to persist until the level of organic material in the river decreases.

About Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority

BJWSA is the Southern Lowcountry's largest water and wastewater utility, serving approximately 200,000 Carolinians through 69,000 connections. The public, non-profit organization is led by a board of directors recommended by the Beaufort and Jasper County Legislative Delegations and appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. The mission of the utility is to deliver quality water and wastewater services to current and future residents of the utility's 750 square mile service area.

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