



MEDIA ADVISORY

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BJWSA Preparing to Activate Two Major System Improvements

(Okatie, South Carolina) – November 20, 2025 – Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) is about to activate two major infrastructure improvements with an eye toward expanding drinking water storage and treatment capacity: A new pump at the Purrysburg Water Treatment Plant and elevated storage tank at Buckwalter Parkway

“These projects are significant milestones toward meeting our current and future needs,” said Verna Arnette, BJWSA’s general manager. “The new 15-million-gallons per day (MGD) pump will distribute water treated at our recently expanded Purrysburg Water Treatment Plant. The elevated storage tank, located along Buckwalter Parkway will provide storage for 1.5-million-gallons of treated drinking water and stabilize pressure during times of high demand.”

The 15 MGD pump is part of a \$60 million expansion of the Purrysburg Water Treatment plant capacity. This project doubled the amount of water the plant can treat from 15 to 30 million gallons of water per day. This pump is one of the largest at the plant with the ability to distribute 10,400 gallons of treated drinking water per minute. While the plant directly serves the BJWSA service area south of the Broad River, the project enhances supply for all BJWSA customers.

Construction of the elevated storage tank and associated transmission lines required an investment of more than \$28 million. Work was completed several weeks ago, and it has been undergoing inspections and permitting. After Thanksgiving, it will be disinfected and placed into service.

Any hydraulic change in the distribution system has the potential to create discolored water caused by the disturbance of natural mineral sediment. However, crews are taking the following steps to reduce the likelihood of customer inconvenience. The high-service pump at Purrysburg will be tested this week with discharges into a nearby stormwater retention basin. When tests are complete, it will be placed into service. The elevated storage tank will be slowly filled and placed into service after December 8.

If customers notice discoloration, they should allow cold water to flow for a few minutes until it clears. If it does not run clear after 10 minutes, please call BJWSA’s customer service hotline at 843-987-9200 and crews can flush mains at nearby hydrants.

For more information about these projects and BJWSA’s other infrastructure improvements, please visit www.bjwsa.org.

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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