



Military Water & Wastewater Systems to be Part of BJWSA



Message from the General Manager

BJWSA has just signed a very important agreement to acquire and operate local Navy and Marine Corps water and wastewater systems for the next fifty years. We have been working on

this effort for almost ten years and are only the second community in the nation to reach these successful negotiations with the Navy.

In 1997, the Department of Defense (DOD) began privatizing all utility systems on military bases. DOD recognized that many military utility systems were aging and required a large investment of capital that competed for funding with items critical to its mission. Therefore, the Navy issued a request for proposals to acquire and operate the water and wastewater utilities in 1998 and BJWSA responded.

BJWSA was originally created to address the challenge of limited groundwater supplies at local military installations. In 1963, a contract was signed that resulted in the development of the Savannah River as a water source for northern Beaufort County, which included the military bases. Since 1965, we have been supplying them with water on a wholesale basis; they owned and operated their own water and wastewater facilities. Now these facilities will be part of the BJWSA system.

The conversion to BJWSA ownership is a challenging project requiring upgrades, safety improvements, new construction and demolition of outdated facilities. BJWSA and the Navy are working together to ensure a smooth transition. The column to the right provides you with further details and benefits of this worthwhile project.

William D. Moss, Jr.
 General Manager

What military bases are included?

The Navy will transfer ownership of all on-base water and sewer systems to BJWSA at four locations: Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Air Station Laurel Bay Housing, the Naval Hospital Beaufort, and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island.

How is this changeover being paid for?

The Navy will pay to rehabilitate the infrastructure on the bases to meet industry standards, the full costs of constructing 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.

Will BJWSA customer costs be affected?

Yes, and it's good news. With the military bases now part of our system, future operating and debt service costs will be spread over a larger customer base, lessening the effect of future rate increases on all customers.

Does the changeover have environmental benefits?

With wastewater from Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station being treated in our regional facility, the quality of the reclaimed water will be significantly better than the treated water discharged from existing military wastewater treatment facilities. BJWSA's regional Port Royal Island water reclamation facility meets new, more stringent discharge permit limits and will allow the eventual reuse of that water for irrigation.

By consolidating wastewater treatment services at our facility, there will be one discharge – at a more environmentally suitable location – instead of three. Elimination of the current discharges from Albergotti Creek and the lower Beaufort River will create an opportunity to reopen closed shellfish beds in that area.

TIMELINE: MILITARY WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM CHANGEOVER TO BJWSA

February 28, 2008
 Contract signed between BJWSA and Navy; 6-month transition period begins.

September 1, 2008
 BJWSA assumes operation and maintenance of military base water and sewer systems.

June 2009
 Construction begins to replace Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station Wastewater Treatment Plants with regional pump stations to redirect wastewater to our Port Royal Island Water Reclamation Facility.

July 2010
 Regional pump stations are completed and operating.

Do You Use a Landscaping Service?

If so, you may think you can't do anything for outdoor water conservation, but you can!

If you have an automatic irrigation system and it is not properly managed, it can waste a lot of water. So be a water watchdog, monitor the system on your property, and notify your landscape service provider of any problems. The following information will help you evaluate the efficiency of your system.

When is your irrigation system on?

It is best to irrigate landscaping at night to reduce evaporation losses. Running irrigation systems in the early morning hours can cause lower water pressure at the beginning of the day, a time of typical high water use in households. If your system runs during the day, contact your service and ask them to reset the timer for nighttime watering.

Does it operate in the rain?

If your irrigation system is on while it's raining, it does not have a rain gauge. Ask your service to install one.

Is it watering your driveway?

The irrigation emitters are not set properly; contact your service and have them change the direction of the spray.



Is your lawn being watered frequently for short durations?

If the answer is yes, ask your service to change the schedule. Watering turf for short durations every day results in a shallow, weak root system. Most lawns receive twice the amount of water needed to maintain a healthy appearance. The key to irrigating turf is to water deeply and infrequently. This will create a deep root system that can efficiently use water and nutrients in the soil.

Are there puddles on your lawn while it's being watered?

You could have a leak in your system; show your service where you have seen the excess water and ask them to check for leaks.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Wilting in drought tolerant plants is often the first sign of too much water. The roots die from too much water and then the plant wilts from lack of water uptake by the roots. Any number of other diseases or even insect damage can also cause wilting. Some drought tolerant plants fold their leaves on hot afternoons to conserve water, which can be mistaken for wilting. So never assume a plant needs to be watered because it looks wilted. Check to see if the soil is wet first.

Source: H2ouse.org



METER TRANSPONDERS RECYCLED FOR REUSE

BJWSA is recycling meter transponders as part of our standard practices to benefit and protect the environment. We use an extremely accurate radio-based water meter reading system. Over time, the meter transponders used in this system wear out and must be replaced. BJWSA is recycling this electronic equipment through a contractor that ensures full environmental compliance and directs all appropriate materials to reputable markets for reuse.

Public Forum Looks at Future of Our Drinking Water

In local public forums held in February, BJWSA joined with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service to offer citizens an opportunity to learn more about their drinking water. Dean Moss, BJWSA's General Manager, addressed the current status of drinking water supplies and Chris Petry, BJWSA's Director of Treatment, spoke about water reuse.

Dean Moss began with good news – "although communities in Upstate South Carolina and the Atlanta area struggle with severe drought conditions, we don't have a crisis here." The Savannah River is a very reliable water source for Beaufort and Jasper Counties. However, some issues may cause future water supply challenges.

With unpredictable climate changes, no one can foresee long-term consequences for the Southeast's water supply. The Savannah River is facing increasing water demands. A decade ago, BJWSA had 6,000 customers; today we have 43,000 and also serve wholesale customers at Hilton Head, Moss Creek, Callawassie and Fripp Island. Atlanta, under a severe drought and expecting continued population growth, is looking at the Savannah River as a possible water source. The Savannah metro region, now drawing 70 million gallons a day from the River, will need more to support future growth and to curtail over pumping of the Floridan aquifer. Southern Beaufort County is suffering the effects of saltwater intrusion caused by Savannah's over pumping and this will create future water supply challenges.

Concerned about these issues, BJWSA is developing an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan to ensure that our communities have the water they need over the next fifty years. We are evaluating many possible alternative water supplies for our region, such as the ocean, deep groundwater and stormwater for irrigation.

Irrigation significantly increases water usage and the demand on our system during summer months. The forthcoming plan will consider potential ways to change the pattern of high summer water use. Last July, BJWSA's retail customers used an average of 500 gallons a day, in contrast to only about 200 gallons a day during winter months.

BJWSA is already a statewide leader in the reclamation and reuse of wastewater for irrigation. Chris Petry emphasized that BJWSA is promoting "the right water for the right use." Our reclaimed water – highly treated, filtered, and disinfected – is safe to use for outdoor landscape watering. Irrigating with reclaimed water costs less than using drinking water and reduces demand on our water supply and facilities. Currently, BJWSA provides reclaimed water to numerous golf courses for irrigation. We also have an agreement to reuse reclaimed water for irrigation throughout the planned 8,000-lot "Tradition" development near Hardeeville.



BJWSA Leaders Appointed to Key Roles

As an important part of ensuring quality services for our customers, BJWSA continues to provide leadership in professional organizations and water related initiatives. BJWSA personnel recently received several significant appointments.

Michael Bell, a BJWSA board member representing Bluffton for 15 years, has been appointed by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Board of Directors to serve as Chairman of the Public Officials Forum. The AWWA is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply. The Public Officials Forum focuses on drinking water issues, providing elected and appointed public officials with ongoing professional development that enhances nationwide sharing of information.

Dean Moss, BJWSA's General Manager, will serve as Chairman of the newly created Savannah River Maritime Commission. The State of South Carolina has established the Commission to represent South Carolina in matters of navigability, depth, dredging, wastewater, sludge disposal and other issues related to the use of the Savannah River. The 12-member group is composed of key legislators and officials. It is intended that the Commission, empowered to negotiate on behalf of the State, deal with Georgia on matters relating to the lower Savannah River.

Ed Saxon, BJWSA's Deputy General Manager of Engineering & Operations, has been named as the President of the South Carolina Water Quality Association, a statewide association of twenty-five publicly owned water and sewer utilities. The Association works to ensure that South Carolina's water quality programs are based on sound science and regulatory policy so that its members can protect public health and the environment in the most cost-effective manner possible.

NewsSPLASH



A quarterly publication of the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority

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WHAT IS THAT PINK STUFF ON MY BATHROOM FIXTURES?

That “pink stuff” that you may be seeing around your sink drains or in your toilets is naturally occurring airborne bacteria that has nothing to do with the quality of your water. These bacteria thrive on moisture, dust, and phosphates. Once airborne, these bacteria seek moist environments to grow.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Always keep bathtubs and sinks wiped down and dry. The best solution to curtail the onset of these bacteria is continual cleaning with a cleaning solution that contains chlorine. Three to five tablespoons of chlorine bleach can be periodically stirred into the toilet tank and flushed in

to the bowl itself. Cleaning and flushing with chlorine will not necessarily eliminate the problem, but will help control the bacteria growth. If you have a septic tank, use a non-chemical cleaner, such as borax to avoid damaging your septic system.

Important! Be sure to follow the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions for your plumbing fixtures and countertops; chlorine cannot be used with some designer products. Use care with abrasives to avoid scratching fixtures, which will make them even more susceptible to bacteria.

USE WATER WISELY... EVERY DROP COUNTS!

