
NEWS RELEASE: REGIONAL WATER PLANT CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

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September 1, 2011, Pawleys Island, SC - It has been nearly five years in the making, but construction is now underway on the Georgetown County Water and Sewer District's West Georgetown County "Black River Water Treatment Facility." The Georgetown County Water and Sewer District Board of Directors recently approved \$8.3 million in construction costs for the first construction phase of a new water treatment facility that will ultimately provide high quality water service to all of the unincorporated portions of western Georgetown County, except those customers served by Browns Ferry Water Company.

When finally completed, the water treatment facility will utilize water from the Black River to produce up to 8 million gallons of high quality water each day for drinking water and industrial use. The first phase of the water treatment plant facilities and the associated extensive water transmission system is expected to be operational in the spring of 2012. The project represents more than five years of planning and will be one of the District's largest and most complicated capital improvement projects. The first phase includes a 2.5 million gallon processed water holding tank; a high pressure booster pumping station capable of delivering 2,100 gallons per minute; a new raw water production well; 15,000 feet of 20-inch transmission mains to be located along Highway 51; 33,500 feet of 18-inch water mains extending from Highway 51 to U.S. Highway 521 paralleling Brick Chimney Road along the power line; and 19,000 feet of 18-inch water mains extending from Highway 51 to Choppee Road.

Executive Director Robert Barker commended the Board Members for their insight. He stated: "This is a bold decision by the Members of the Board of Directors to move forward with this important water project. They envisioned what western Georgetown County would need in the years ahead and decided to address the County's long-term needs now. This project will enable the District to better serve the District's existing customers, provide for the needs for their children and grand children, and help attract much needed industry to Georgetown County."

Chairman Bill Schwartzkopf stated, "When fully completed, all of Georgetown County Water and Sewer District's western Georgetown County subsystems will be interconnected into one regional system. Now there are five separate subsystems. The result will be higher water pressure and increased water storage which will result in improved fire protection and back-up water supplies during emergencies. The interconnected systems will mean better utilization of existing water resources and, ultimately, significantly better water quality. Water is one of our most precious resources and we must be good stewards of its use", he said. "These water system improvements will provide a consistent and reliable source of high quality water for a long time to come. This project is part of our ongoing commitment to provide our customers with the highest possible levels of quality and reliability."