



Town of Ridgeland

One Town Square · Post Office Box 1119 · Ridgeland, SC 29936

January 3, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On January 2, 2020 the Town of Ridgeland experienced a treated wastewater effluent pump station malfunction from one of its two wastewater treatment facility lagoons which resulted in an over topping of one of the lagoons for an approximately 12-hour period.

On January 1, 2020 the operational staff of the treatment facility noticed the water level in the treatment lagoon was slowly rising even with the effluent pumps running. The water rise continued until eventually, treated (chlorinated) effluent over topped the lagoon dike in the evening of January 1st, allowing treated effluent to spill into a grassy area adjacent to the wastewater treatment facility and possibly into Captain Bill's Creek (which is adjacent to the treatment facility). Staff estimates that approximately 105,000 gallons of treated effluent spilled.

After considerable investigation it was discovered on the morning of January 2nd that a gate that controls the in-flow rate of treated effluent into the effluent pump station had not reopened all the way when maintenance work was performed on December 25, 2019. Once the this gate was re-opened, within a few hours the over topping stopped and as of today, the water levels in the lagoon have returned to normal levels.

The Town has notified DHEC regulators as per protocol and placed hydrated lime on all the grass areas where treated effluent may have been discharged. Fortunately, the discharge was screened, treated effluent so no solids were discharged. Operations staff is also looking at Captain Bill's Creek to see if any plumes, sheens or other traces of spilled treated effluent are visible. As of this afternoon, none have been detected.

If the public has any concerns, please contact our operations staff at (843) 726-7501 to discuss this issue further.