



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BJWSA responds to wastewater release off Okatie Highway**

**(Okatie, South Carolina) – December 9, 2024** – Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) reports that an estimated 60,000 gallons of wastewater from a failed force main was released near the intersection of Okatie Highway and Lawton Boulevard in Bluffton on Sunday, Dec. 8.

The overflow began at approximately 12:45 p.m. on Dec. 8, and BJWSA crews immediately responded. The overflow was stopped around 5 p.m. The pipeline was repaired and returned to service at approximately 1:30 a.m., and crews are currently in the process of standing sewage cleanup and recovery.

The wastewater flowed toward a retention pond and wooded area east of Pickett Mill Boulevard.

Signs have been posted in the area to inform the public.

BJWSA has notified the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and is working in conjunction with SCDES to address any effects caused by the overflow.

BJWSA has well-trained and experienced field operations crews to monitor our wastewater collection system, which delivers an average of 10 million gallons of wastewater daily to eight wastewater treatment facilities for treatment and disposal.

If you see or suspect any type of spill from the sewer collection system, please contact BJWSA at 843-987-9200.

For more information, please visit [www.bjwsa.org](http://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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