



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Saturday, September 19, 2020

For more information, contact:
Chad Lawson at (864) 483-1134

Repairs completed to pipe damaged in heavy rains

ReWa reports that large sewer line near creek failed due to streambank erosion

GREENVILLE, S.C.— Renewable Water Resources crews have notified the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) that successful repairs have been made to a sewer line that failed as a result of severe weather and heavy rainfalls that arrived in the wake of Hurricane Sally.

The 27-inch line is located in an isolated area near Rocky Creek and a ReWa-operated pump station in the Pelham Road area.

The utility reported to DHEC that remote-monitoring data indicated the break likely occurred at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday. ReWa's operational team was alerted to the concern after observing changes in the downstream pump station's performance. Following an investigation, crews were able to locate the damaged section of pipe the following morning at approximately 7 a.m.

Upon discovery of the break, ReWa crews installed an emergency "bypass" pump to divert the flow around the damaged area to allow crews to safely make repairs to the pipe. Releases from the pipe were fully contained on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. and the repair was completed a few hours later at 7:30 p.m. In addition, a representative from DHEC visited the site on Friday afternoon to observe and discuss the situation with ReWa officials.

Crews were back on-site early Saturday to inspect the repairs made to the 27-inch fiberglass reinforced pipe and to further stabilize the compromised area adjacent to the pipeline to prevent further damage. The utility will perform follow-up inspections and evaluate the pipeline's condition to inform rehabilitation and replacement decisions and ensure the integrity of the line.

ReWa officials said its operational and technical teams' continuing investigation has determined the pipe failure occurred due to high-flow conditions from concentrated periods of heavy rain which, in turn, resulted in significant erosion of the Rocky Creek streambank.

Both upstream and downstream samples have been taken from Rocky Creek. Those results will be provided to DHEC, pending final analysis by technicians at ReWa's lab on Mauldin Road.

The pipe failure will not affect ReWa's ability to provide sewer service to the area and will also not affect local drinking water. However, out of an abundance of caution, all individuals should observe warning signage that has been placed in the affected areas



until water testing has been completed. Those signs will remain in place until sampling confirms water quality is consistent with normal upstream conditions.

For additional information, please contact ReWa's 24-hour hotline at (864) 299-4004 and check for any additional updates that will be posted to www.rewaonline.org

ABOUT RENEWABLE WATER RESOURCES (REWA):

Since 1925, Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) has been committed to providing high-quality wastewater treatment services to the Upstate of South Carolina while promoting a cleaner environment, protecting public health and the water quality of Upstate waterways, and developing the necessary sewer infrastructure to sustain our community and growing economy. With nine water resource recovery facilities and more than 350 miles of pipe, we serve a broad geographic area, including Greenville County and portions of Anderson, Laurens, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties. Each day an estimated 42 million gallons of water passes through our trunk lines and reclamation facilities before being cleaned and returned to our area rivers and streams. To learn more about ReWa, visit www.rewaonline.org.

—###—