

Wastewater Spill Notification in South Carolina



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Existing Process

- DHEC provided guidelines to wastewater utilities on developing a voluntary notification program:
www.scdhec.gov/environment/wpc_sso.htm.
- Many utilities did develop a voluntary program
- Permit requires notification of any spill that reaches waters of the state, over 500 gallons, or impacting public health or environment

New Requirements

- February 1, 2012, H.B. 3617 was signed by the Governor
- Placed new requirements for significant spills on wastewater utilities
- Significant spill is a discharge of at least 5,000 gallons of untreated or partially treated domestic sewage

New Requirements

- The utility must report a significant spill to the Department orally within 24 hours and in writing within 5 days
- The utility must provide public notice of a significant spill within 24 hours of discovery
- If the utility does not provide this notification, in addition to any enforcement response, DHEC shall provide public notice

New Requirements

- If a utility has more than two significant spills per one hundred miles of collection system during a 12 month period, DHEC shall issue an order directing the utility to comprehensive review of the system
- DHEC in the process of contacting utilities notifying them of the new requirements and asking for total miles of their collection system

Questions?



“When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water” – Benjamin Franklin