

From: Fayette County Board of Commissioners

Contact: Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk

Phone: 770-305-5102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fayette County Implements Significant Water System Improvements

The Fayette County Water System over the past two years has made significant improvements, is in full compliance and plans to achieve a Gold Award for 100% compliance for this past year's operations.

During the summer of 2013, the State Sanitary Survey categorized the Fayette County Water System with "Concerned Performance". A Corrective Action Plan was established to improve these deficiencies and substantial progress has been made to date. Two major \$6.5 Million construction projects are in-progress and will be completed by year-end. At this time, 83% of the identified deficiencies are resolved with the remaining 17% in-progress of being completed over the next year.

In addition, the Water System has made noteworthy operational enhancements that give Water Operators State of the Art equipment to better manage, treat and distribute the best water quality possible. Some key projects implemented are as follows:

1. In-house laboratory include Online THM Analyzers (giving operators real-time THM numbers) and a FlowCam algae analyzer for better treatment and tracking of algae by species. Both of these were the first analyzers in the state used in a drinking water plant.
2. All new bench top test equipment used in both of our testing labs that run test on various locations in the treatment process.
3. TOC (Total Organic Carbon) Analyzer giving immediate results rather than waiting for results from outside lab
4. DeltaTox Analyzer to develop baseline toxin monitoring (Raw and Finished Water)

All Water Operators have undergone retraining certification and our in-house Maintenance Team has reduced equipment outages, installed new Particle Counters and Streaming Current Analyzers and upgraded the Coagulant feed system. These changes provide our Water Operators critical information in making better time sensitive decisions and makes them more efficient and effective.

We continue to enhance our customer service with the addition of new personnel and training to handle our customers more efficiently. On-line Citizen Self-Serve has been implemented making it easier for customers to see and pay their bills in a timely fashion.

Our Distribution System has established programs to ensure our five elevated storage tanks and transportation lines are in good working order. We streamlined operations by creating a new crew to focus on leak detection, valve maintenance and fast track repairs.

Other significant projects that are underway include the Lake Peachtree dredging and spillway repairs, increased USGS monitoring stations, bottling of Fayette County Water System treated water and the rollout of our new Water System Logo to highlight the overall changes of our Water System.

“All of the improvements mentioned above have not required a water rate increase,” said the Director of the Water System, Lee Pope. “Being able to accomplish these significant water compliance and operational enhancements within existing funds helps earn the trust of our customers and meet the demands for today and tomorrow. “

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