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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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### **Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority Volunteers Clean Up the Reedy River**

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority employees held their annual Reedy River Clean Up, on Friday, September 14 between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The group of volunteers, including employees from Black and Veatch and Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority, spent the afternoon removing trash and debris from the river channel on Western Carolina's Mauldin Road Wastewater Treatment Plant site at the intersection of I-85 and Mauldin Road. A 1.5-mile section of the Reedy River runs through the property and serves as the receiving stream for the plant's effluent. The fall workday was scheduled in conjunction with the 2007 South Carolina Beach Sweep/River Sweep week.

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the South Carolina Beach Sweep/River Sweep, which is organized by the SC Sea Grant Consortium, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and the SCANA Corporation. Last year, more than 2,500 South Carolina volunteers removed over 23,000 pounds of aquatic debris from South Carolina's waterways. This annual clean up clears our waterways of unsightly debris, educates the public about the impact that aquatic debris has on our economy and our environment, and serves as a research tool for the Center for Marine Conservation in Washington, D.C.

Blake Visin, Western Carolina's Information Systems Manager, is the organizer of the "Stream Team." Visin organized a cookout that began at 12:00 for all volunteers. "Our employees enjoy participating in this semi-annual event," Visin said. "Our jobs focus on protecting Upstate waterways. And we feel this clean-up effort is important because it provides us with another opportunity to protect the water quality of the Reedy River."

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority celebrates 75 years of environmental stewardship. The organization provides wastewater treatment services to over 400,000 industrial, commercial and residential customers in Greenville County and parts of Anderson, Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. WCRSA operates and maintains 300 miles of major sewer trunk lines and 11 major wastewater treatment facilities.

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