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For Immediate Release
March 15, 2006

Three Western Carolina Employees Receive State and District Environmental Awards

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority is proud to recognize three employees, Larry Needham, Calvin Howard, and Perry Ashmore who recently received awards from the state level of the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. The Blue Ridge Foothills District also recognized Needham and Howard for their outstanding performances in 2005.

Larry Needham, a Greenville resident, received the honor of the Maintenance Person of the Year at the State and Regional levels. Needham, an employee of Western Carolina since 1991, currently serves as the Electrical/Instrumentation Maintenance Supervisor. He is a licensed Master Electrician qualified with a D Biological Wastewater certification. Needham is responsible for maintaining over 2,000 pieces of operating machines at Western Carolina daily. His dedication, timely actions and sound judgment have assisted in keeping pollutants out of the Upstate waterways. Needham, with the help of his staff, will continue to work diligently with contractors and engineers in the current and future projects and upgrades.

Calvin Howard, a Greenville Resident, was awarded the Wastewater Operator of the Year Award at the State and Regional levels. He has served as Operator for the past five years, but has been with Western Carolina for almost two decades. Howard holds a class A Biological Wastewater Treatment license and is currently the Lead Operator at Western Carolina's Mauldin Road facility. He has excelled both as a member of the plant Operations Team and as an individual at the Mauldin Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). He is a key member of the design team for the plant's upcoming upgrades, and has taken the lead in working with the engineers to ensure all aspects of the design are operator friendly and optimized for remote monitoring and control. His emphasis on exceptionally high standards when dealing with his service to the wastewater profession and to his community made him an exceptional nominee for this award.

Perry Ashmore, also a Greenville resident, was presented the Hatfield Laboratory Analyst Award at the state level for his outstanding service. With 33 years of experience at Western Carolina, Ashmore has completed various tasks ranging from operational duties to managing multiple treatment facilities within the Authority. In August 2003, Perry began managing the Pelham WWTP, which is currently the largest municipal upgrade in South Carolina history. His daily management style leads the staff to actively take part in the current upgrade. This will ultimately help them to learn the process and operational modifications for a smooth transition in the upgrading of the plants.

Western Carolina congratulates these gentlemen for excellent service to the organization and to the community. For more information about Larry Needham, Calvin Howard, Perry Ashmore, or Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority, please contact Dr. Steve Graef at 299-4000.

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