



For more information, contact:
Dale Looper, 299-0260

For Immediate Release
June 20, 2006

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's Durbin Creek Facility Receives W.A.I.T. Certification

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's Durbin Creek Facility recently received the Wildlife and Industries Together (W.A.I.T.) Certification. Skip Still, of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), presented the award to Charles Patterson, Durbin Creek's Plant Manager, and Maxi Sullivan, a Durbin Creek employee, at Western Carolina's Commission Meeting. Durbin Creek is Western Carolina's second facility to receive W.A.I.T. Certification, and it is the organization's goal to have all of the regional plants in the Western Carolina system to become certified as a part of their continued effort to improve the Upstate's environment.

The W.A.I.T Program is designed to provide corporate landowners and their employees a framework for integrating wildlife habitat needs into corporate land management decisions. The program's founding partners are the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, SCDNR, the National Turkey Federation, and Duke Power.

To become certified, the Durbin Creek Facility implemented a Bluebird Trail with 47 bird houses, meadows with annually-planted wildlife food plots, areas of natural hardwoods, and a mowing rotation schedule. Western Carolina also hosted the Annual Environmental Awareness Day for Girl Scouts and an Eagle Service Project for Ben Harvey from Boy Scout Troop 282. Western Carolina also hosts tours of the wastewater treatment plants on a regular basis to the public, particularly school groups and organizations. The employees at Western Carolina notice wildlife such as white-tail deer and wild turkeys on the plant site daily.

For more information about the W.A.I.T. Program and other programs such as the Backyard Wildlife Habitat and the Schoolyard Habitat, please contact Angela Viney, President/CEO of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, at 803-256-0670 or 2711 Middleburg Dr., Columbia, S.C. 29204, or visit www.scwf.org.

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority celebrates 75 years of environmental stewardship. The organization serves over 400,000 residential and commercial customers in Greenville County and portions of Anderson, Spartanburg and Laurens Counties by operating and maintaining 300 miles of major sewer trunk lines and 11 major wastewater treatment facilities.

###