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### **Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's "Virtual Velocity" Earns 1<sup>st</sup> Place in State Competition**

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's "Virtual Velocity" earned first place at the 2005 Operations Challenge competition at the Water Environment Association of South Carolina's Annual Environmental Conference.

The Operations Challenge is an annual competition, which takes place across the country at Water Environment Federation conferences. The event encourages wastewater treatment operators to compete in five events to test their operations skills and abilities. Participating teams compete in process control, laboratory, pump repair, safety, and collection events.

Team "Virtual Velocity" of Western Carolina came in first place in the overall competition, winning first in three out of five events. These events included the process control event, the laboratory event, and the safety event. As a result of placing first overall, team "Virtual Velocity" is guaranteed the opportunity to compete in the National Competition this fall in Washington, D.C.

Members of Western Carolina's team include team coach Jimmy Hunsinger, Maintenance Manager; Ruth Graham, Lead Operator at the Taylors Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); Chandler Black, TV and Cleaning Crew Leader; Toby Humphries, Inflow and Infiltration Crew Leader; and David Skyles, an Operator II at the Lower Reedy WWTP.

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\*\*\*Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority celebrates 75 years\*\*\*  
of protecting the environment of the Upstate.