# *Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District*
## *December 2015 Newsletter*

To all Lake Santee Regional Waste and Water District customers, ***WELCOME*** to our first ever Newsletter.

As many of you may have learned by reading the Lake Santee History book that was a part of the 50th Anniversary celebration this summer, the Smoke Signals used to include an article labeled "Big Chief Speaks". This occurred in the very early days of the lake community and was a brief report of current events from the Property Owners Association Board President. We are going to borrow heavily from that idea and begin a periodic Newsletter that focuses on news and events related to the Regional Waste & Water District (RWWD).

We understand that not everyone opens up their newly arrived Smoke Signals and immediately flips to the RWWD Meeting Minutes pages. And, regrettably, we have even heard rumors that some people have never made it to those pages, at all. So, our hope is that this Newsletter idea can provide you with a brief 1-page update on interesting topics, important information, and upcoming events. The format of the Newsletter will evolve with time to become more ascetically pleasing, as this first issue is just a few typed up paragraphs to update you on the granular activated carbon issue and the IDEM notice posted in the November Smoke Signals. We hope this type of brief update will be useful to you in the months and years to come.

Carbon issue – to remind us of the history

The granular activated carbon was replaced in May as part of routine maintenance. We bought the carbon from the same supplier (Evoqua/Siemens) as we had previously. The carbon should last about 2 years. After the carbon was replaced, the plant immediately began to see increased turbidity in the finished water that was passed through the carbon tanks. IDEM was called to help troubleshoot, came out to the plant, ran some tests, and it was decided to by-pass the carbon tanks as the carbon seemed to be leaching manganese – we had not experienced this issue on previous carbon changes. The summer was frustrating trying to get Evoqua to help us resolve the carbon issue – they have been very unresponsive. We ultimately had to reach out to a different company, and at the recommendation of Indiana Rural Water, we contacted Water Solutions for help.

Carbon issue – update from 11/19/15 monthly RWWD Meeting

Water Solutions oversaw independent tests on the water at various points along the treatment process and oversaw tests on the carbon material. Those water test results were reviewed at the 11/19/15 meeting and confirmed that the carbon is the source of the manganese. As we have been by-passing the carbon tanks since IDEM's help in May, the finished drinking water has not contained increased manganese levels. The carbon test results indicated that the carbon is already breaking down, well ahead of its 2 year life expectancy – it is believed this premature breakdown of the carbon is the primary reason for the leached manganese. The RWWD Board of Trustees voted to immediately replace the carbon with carbon from a new supplier. Water Solutions has recommended a carbon supplier. Also, a representative from Indiana American Water (and a part time Lake Santee resident) has offered to provide alternate carbon supplier names from his work experience. Once the carbon is replaced, new tests will be conducted to ensure the issue has been resolved. The appropriate information related to the costs of the bad carbon material, replacing the carbon, the extensive testing, etc. will be turned over to the RWWD's attorney to follow up with Evoqua.

IDEM notice that was posted in the November Smoke Signals – additional information

A notice related to exceeding the HAA maximum containment level as of 6/30/15 was received from IDEM in mid-October and was published in the November Smoke Signals. Since that publication, there were 3 customers who attended the 11/19/15 monthly meeting and 1 customer who sent a letter to the office – all 4 asking for additional information. Several questions were addressed during the meeting. A common theme across these customers was a desire to have information provided in a timelier manner. The idea of this Newsletter, in no small part, is an attempt to provide the community with just those types of updates.

As the notice from November indicated, HAA is formed when organic matter comes into contact with chlorine, which is one of the chemicals we use to treat the water. The granular activated carbon helps remove (adsorb) organic matter from the water. With the carbon issues mentioned above, we have been by-passing the carbon tanks. The carbon is being replaced and the water will no longer by-pass the carbon tanks, which will better aid in controlling the HAA levels. The plant was back in compliance as of August and remains so today.

Questions???

Any time that anyone has questions, please feel free to contact our Utility Administrator, Brad Jones, our Utility Superintendent, Brandon Litmer, or any one of the RWWD Board Members.

Scott Gibbs, President – Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District