

**TO:** SGWASA Board Members

**FROM:** Scott N. Schroyer, Executive Director *SNS*

**CC:** Chris Summerlin, Asst. Executive Director  
Cody Norwood, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

**TOPIC:** Initial Notification – Failure of Quarterly Wastewater Toxicity Test Result at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**DATE:** February 27, 2026

---

### Purpose of This Memo

This memo serves as the initial notification of an event at the SGWASA Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Additional updates will be shared as new information becomes available.

### Summary of Incident

As part of routine quarterly monitoring required by the State of North Carolina, SGWASA performed scheduled aquatic toxicity tests on February 10th and 12th, 2026. The contract laboratory reported to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) that the SGWASA toxicity test failed, indicating that the aquatic organisms used in the test did not perform as expected under laboratory conditions. SGWASA learned about these test results on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

All other wastewater compliance tests conducted during the same week were fully compliant. Based on a review of operational data and in-house sampling, SGWASA staff believes the values pulled by the contract lab may be inaccurate and inconsistent with all other plant performance indicators. However, the contract laboratory's original reported values were submitted to NCDEQ, and because they exceed allowable limits, NCDEQ is required to issue a Notice of Violation (NOV). This outcome does not indicate any risk to public health, nor does it involve SGWASA's drinking water system, which remains fully compliant with all state and federal standards.

This issue has no immediate effect on the Falls Lake Rules, and it does not alter SGWASA's obligations under the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy.

### Initial Response Actions

- Consulting with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources
- Conducting additional toxicity tests in March and April as required
- Reviewing incoming wastewater characteristics
- Reviewing both in-house lab and contract lab quality control procedures
- Reviewing recent plant operations and activity logs for any abnormalities

### Regulatory Communication

SGWASA has notified the NC DWR Aquatic Toxicology Branch. A Notice of Violation will be issued, as required by regulation, but no civil penalties will apply unless two consecutive monthly toxicity tests (March and April) also fail.

### Current Status

The wastewater treatment plant is operating normally and meeting all other compliance requirements.

### Next Steps

SGWASA staff will provide the Board with updates as additional sampling results and regulatory communications are received over the next 90 days.

### Anticipated Board Actions

None at this time.