

NEWS RELEASE
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SANTA ISN'T THE ONLY PERSON WORKING ON THE HOLIDAY

Spartanburg Water Employees Keep the Clean Water Flowing and the Toilets Flushing

December 20, 2010 – (Spartanburg, SC) – As families across Spartanburg County are tearing into gifts on Christmas morning, chances are they won't be thinking about one of the most valuable gifts we all receive every day – clean, safe drinking water and responsible wastewater management. But the plant operators working that morning no doubt will.

Few people realize the job of producing drinking water and treating wastewater goes on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The dedicated professionals who sacrifice time away from their families on Christmas and other holidays know the job they do goes largely unnoticed, but seeking the spotlight isn't why they do it.

"Making sure our neighbors and families have safe drinking water is something that never takes a break," said Jeff Erwin, Lead Operator at the R.B. Simms Water Treatment Facility. "We know we're working on the front lines of public health and that's what makes it worthwhile," added Willie Shell, Lead Operator at the Fairforest Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Jeff Erwin and Willie Shell are just two members of the Spartanburg Water staff of professionals working to keep water flowing through the hundreds of miles of water lines across the community, and ensure environmentally responsible stewardship of local waterways.

"We are proud of the men and women who recognize the critical job they are performing, and are willing to do it even when that means time away from their families on important occasions," according to Rebecca West, Deputy General Manager of Technical and Engineering Services. "Yes, it's their job but it's also something they are committed to and take seriously. It takes training and dedication to earn a license to operate a water or wastewater treatment facility."

Along with staff working at the treatment plants, there are other Spartanburg Water personnel who are on-call during the holidays to respond at a moment's notice to emergencies such as large line breaks and service outages.

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