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Santee-Lynches Proposed Capacity Use Area Designation **PUBLIC MEETING**



All lines will be muted to avoid echo or feedback



Opportunity for comments following presentation



Meeting will be recorded to share as a resource

How to Participate

Click the Hand Raise icon to be called on to speak



Questions may be typed into the chat & will be addressed as time allows



Unmute with the microphone icon or by dialing *6 on your phone when called on to speak





Hand Raise (click this icon to indicate you would like to speak)

Chat (type to share a question)



Unmute (click the microphone icon to unmute when called upon)





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Proposed Santee-Lynches Capacity Use Area

Chesterfield, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Richland, and Sumter Counties

Agenda

Capacity Use Program Overview Alex Butler, Manager Santee-Lynches Area Background Lance Foxworth, Hydrogeologist Current and Historic Water Use Ashley Carothers, Hydrogeologist **Current Groundwater Conditions** Andrea Hughes PhD, Hydrogeologist Summary and Next Steps Alex Butler, Manager Questions



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Capacity Use Program Overview





Water Quantity Programs

Groundwater Use and Reporting

- Since the 1970s
- Issue permits in designated capacity areas of the coastal plain over for use over 3
 million gallons in any month (~1in of water per week for 28 acres or average use for
 1000 people)
- Users outside of Capacity Use Areas must register wells if well or well system will use over 3 million gallons in any month
- All registered and permitted groundwater withdrawers report their annual water use to the Department

Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting and Reporting

- Since June 2012
- Issue permits / registrations statewide if over 3 million gallons in any month
- All registered and permitted surface water withdrawers report their annual water use to the Department

Groundwater Use and Reporting Act Legislative Declaration of Policy

"The General Assembly declares that the general welfare and public interest require that the groundwater resources of the State **be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are capable**, subject to reasonable regulation, in order to conserve and protect these resources, prevent waste, and to provide and maintain conditions which are conducive to the development and use of water resources."

Conserve Prevent and Waste Protect CAPACITY **USE PROGRAM**

Maintain for Development And Use



Groundwater Use and Reporting Act Capacity Use Area Designation

Where groundwater withdrawal :

- Presents potential adverse effects to the natural resources
- Poses a threat to public health, safety, or economic welfare
- Poses a significant threat to the long-term integrity of the groundwater source

The Department, local government or groundwater withdrawers may initiate a Capacity Use Area designation process

Groundwater Permitting

Groundwater withdrawal permits are required to *withdraw and use groundwater equal to or greater than three million gallons in any month* in a Capacity Use Area.

Groundwater use categories that are typically permitted:

- Public Water Supply
- Industry
- Irrigation

- Golf Course
- Mining
- Thermo Power



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Santee-Lynches Area Background



- 6th Capacity Use Area
- Entire Coastal Plain Recommended for Groundwater Management Program in 2004
- 6 County Area: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, and Richland Counties

Location, Topography, Land Use



- North East Central part of SC
- 25 feet to 720 feet above mean sea level
- Bounded by Fall Line to North-West and Congaree/Santee System to South-West
- Upper Coastal Plain, Sandhills, Lower Coastal Plain to South-East

Population



Population



Geopolitical Structure Council of Government (COG)



- SLCOG is currently governed by a 29member Board of Directors from four participating counties and serves 12 incorporated municipalities.
- CMCOG is currently governed by a 51member Board of Directors from four participating counties and serves 30 incorporated municipalities including the state capital of Columbia, South Carolina.



Geopolitical Structure Continued

- Chesterfield, Clarendon, Lee and Sumter counties are governed by a Council/Administrator form of government.
- Kershaw and Richland counties are governed by a Council form of government.
- Cities, towns, and municipalities in the proposed Santee-Lynches CUA implement various forms of government, including Mayor/Council, Council/Manager, or Council only.

Climate



Climate







D0 D1 D2 D3 D4

Hydrogeologic Setting



Hydrogeologic Setting



Hydrogeologic Setting



Groundwater Recharge Areas



Surface Water



SC Major River Basins

Groundwater Surface Water Interactions





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Current and Historic Water Use



Groundwater use







Reported Groundwater use (MG)



Miles



National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA)



















There are currently 510 registered Groundwater wells reporting water use in the Santee-Lynches proposed area.

10000

8000

6000

4000

2000

0

Chesterfield

Reported Water Use 2019 (MG)





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Current Groundwater Conditions

Water Level Measurements

- Time-series measurements of the water level below land surface (BLS) at a specific place.
 - How has the water level at this location changed over time?
- 'Snapshot' of water level in wells screened in an aquifer.
 What is the current condition of groundwater over a large area?
- Wells maintained by SCDNR and USGS.



Crouch Branch Aquifer











McQueen Branch Aquifer











McQueen Branch Aquifer



Impact of Groundwater Withdrawal

Measuring Water Levels and Potentiometric Surfaces

- □Water Table (free surface of the groundwater)
- Potentiometric Surface (pressure surface of groundwater in the confined aquifer)
- □Water flows from high to low water levels (or hydraulic head)



Contour Lines and Groundwater Flow Directions

Closely spaced contour lines represent a steeper gradient. Groundwater flows "downhill" at 90° to the contour lines.







Pumping Cones (Cones of Depression)

- Excessive groundwater withdrawal alters the water table or potentiometric surface resulting in:
 - changes to inland flow paths.
 - reverses in the normal off-shore direction of net groundwater flow.
- Reversal of groundwater flow at the coast can cause coastal water supply (and other) wells to become salty.







Crouch Branch Change in Water Level: Pre-Development to 2016

Potentiometric surface has declined in Sumter and Clarendon Counties more than 60 feet.



McQueen Branch (Middendorf): Pre-Development



McQueen Branch: 2019



McQueen Branch Change in Water Level: Pre-Development to 2019

Potentiometric surface has declined in south Richland, Sumter and Clarendon Counties more than 75 feet.



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Summary and Next Steps

Groundwater Balance



Change in Groundwater Storage (Savings) Lowering of water table System compaction Natural Withdrawals Surface water discharge Springs Evapotranspiration









Project Lifecycle



Capacity Use Designation is Appropriate

- Number of high capacity wells has increased
- Increased demand on groundwater system has occurred and is expected to continue
- Potential for negative impacts to existing users and the natural system
- Management of the resource will get more difficult in the future



Next Steps

- Department will receive comments until February 13
- Notice of Public Hearing will be placed in State Register
- Public Hearing/ Presentation to the DHEC Board



Groundwater Management Plan Timeline*



* Subject to Board Approval

Permitting Process

- 1. An application and required documentation is submitted to the Department by a potential groundwater withdrawer
- 2. Department reviews application for completeness
- 3. Department performs a technical review of permit
- 4. All new and modified permits are Public Noticed
- 5. A Permit to Construct is issued if new wells are requested to be installed
 - Is not a Permit to Withdraw, only authorized construction of the well(s)
- 6. Permit to Withdraw is issued
 - If a new well was installed, the Department requires well records be submitted prior to issuance of a permit



CONTACT US

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