

VII. LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Future planning should not be based on the concept of one large regional wastewater treatment complex.
- (2) Locate mid-size regional treatment plants on rivers just below major tributaries to maximize the assimilative capacity of the stream.
- (3) Upgrade into mid-size regional facilities older plants that are well-maintained and well-sited, particularly if open land is available.
- (4) Consolidate older plants, upgrade well-sited plants into regional facilities and build regional treatment plants on the schedule indicated in Table 3.
- (5) Upstate sewer utilities should continue their current policy of allocating capacity on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (6) Permitted capacity for existing industrial users should be based on actual average discharge with provisions for short-term peak flows.
- (7) Existing users should pay an access/reservation fee if they desire to reserve capacity beyond that permitted. The reservation fee should be based on fixed costs plus debt service cost.
- (8) The providers of water and wastewater treatment services should develop and implement a program to educate the community on water conservation issues.
- (9) A comprehensive and continuing program of maintenance and rehabilitation of sewer lines must be carried on throughout the area.
- (10) Separate storage basins should be constructed at wastewater treatment plants to collect excess flows during storm events. The basin contents can then be managed at controlled rates.
- (11) The Roundtable supports the concept of multiple mid-size regional treatment plants along Upstate rivers to optimize the use of river capacity.
- (12) Sewer utilities in the Upstate should seek relief from DHEC in those cases where permit limits less stringent than those based on strict application of the national criteria will not impair the existing and classified uses of receiving streams.

- (13) Relief under DHEC's site-specific regulation should not be conditioned upon conducting extensive studies in the immediate vicinity of the plant discharge where data at other points on the same or similar streams support the conclusion that relief should be granted.
- (14) Through the cooperative efforts of DHEC, Upstate sewer utilities and water quality experts, an improved nutrient model for Lake Greenwood should be developed, and additional studies should be carried out to assess the impact of other point and nonpoint sources in the lake's watershed before more stringent phosphorous limits are imposed on treatment facilities in the Reedy and Saluda River basins.
- (15) As a condition for reissuance of their NPDES permits, smaller, inefficient and outdated domestic wastewater treatment facilities should be required to connect to regional plants.
- (16) Each treatment plant within the region should evaluate alternate strategies for treatment and discharge.
- (17) The individual plant strategies should be evaluated together in a Best Management Practices Plan, which not only optimizes the capacity of individual treatment plants, but also considers the needs of the entire basin.
- (18) The Basin Manager for each of the three basins should work closely with the various stormwater management entities to ensure protection and best use of the rivers. (The "Basin Manager" concept is described in Section V, A.)
- (19) Upstate sewer providers should be actively researching alternative approaches to treating and handling biosolids; moreover, these efforts should focus primarily on alternatives which emphasize recycling and reuse. Such alternatives might include land application, composting, recycling, and ground cover for landfills.
- (20) At least two alternatives should be available to control the entire biosolids flow. This will provide Upstate sewer utilities a choice: if one biosolids disposal alternative—for example, landfilling or incineration—should encounter regulatory problems, then another approach—land application of lime-treated biosolids—would be permitted and ready to go.
- (21) Sewer providers that handle biosolids should encourage demonstration and development projects, particularly those aimed toward regional or basin biosolids management projects.

- (22) A policy should be implemented which would:
- prohibit direct discharge of nonindustrial sources of heavy oils and grease into sewer lines
 - require the installation and regular cleaning of grease traps wherever excessive grease is produced
 - establish fees to cover the cost of inspection and disposal.
- (23) Regional sewer authorities should consider privatizing the handling and disposal of oil and grease.
- (24) Upstate sewer utilities, local planning agencies and other regulatory entities should require all septic tank users to connect to collector lines when and where they are available.
- (25) Local sewer authorities should accept septage from areas where local sewer service is not available. The costs of this service should reflect the capital and operating costs of providing the service.
- (26) A Basin Manager should be established for each of the three river basins. It should play the lead role in Section 208 coordination.
- (27) The Basin Manager should be a single entity consisting of the major stakeholders in each basin. The Saluda Basin management entity should consist of a representative from each of the following: Anderson County, Pickens County, the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (LCWSC) and WCRSA. The Enoree River Basin Manager should consist of a representative from each of the following: Greer Commission of Public Works, Spartanburg County, LCWSC and WCRSA. The Reedy River Basin would be managed by WCRSA and LCWSC. Each basin manager would have an advisory council composed of a representative from each publicly-owned treatment works within that basin. ACOG would act as a mediator to forge a consensus in situations where conflicts may exist. In this manner, plans will be developed in the interest of the region as a whole.
- (28) Future capacity may require construction of wastewater treatment facilities by multigovernmental entities. The construction and operating costs should be divided among the entities based on capacity requirements.
- (29) To determine the size of a new facility, each entity must decide the amount of capacity needed to meet its projected growth over the next 20 years, coupled with its ability to pay for that capacity.

- (30) If future needs exceed the initial allocation of capacity to a particular entity, that entity may buy capacity from another participant at replacement cost, or participate in the cost of a plant expansion.
- (31) The cost of upgrades resulting from state, federal or other regulatory requirements will be shared by all users and entities on an allocated capacity basis.
- (32) Variable operations and maintenance costs will be charged to the user. Fixed costs should be charged to users and to those holding capacity commitments.
- (33) The most practical way for political subdivisions to solve common problems is for them to enter into intergovernmental agreements. Such agreements would essentially leave local responsibilities in place with the local districts, while regional problems could be addressed by a cooperative effort. The contracts by their terms would set forth the responsibilities among the parties and provide for the funding, management and operation of the systems, without obtaining legislative or county approval in most cases.
- (34) The identity of the Upstate Roundtable should be retained and its members should be responsible for continuing the review and coordination of infrastructure projects and future updating and extension of the long-range plan.
- (35) The Roundtable should have a technical, long-range planning capability to provide ongoing updates on water quality, stream flow quantities, land use, infrastructure condition and GIS or computer mapping. This capability would be the best resource available to the three-basin area for addressing watershed management issues.
- (36) The Roundtable should designate a committee, composed of representatives from the five counties and the six utilities in the three basins, to be responsible for implementation of the plan.
- (37) Political entities in the Upstate should undertake a comprehensive effort to find funding for the strategic planning and construction of wastewater treatment infrastructure. Such an effort should consider development of costs to be included in federal appropriations.
- (38) The Roundtable supports the general concept of an access fee. Most sewer service providers in the Upstate charge a fee for new connections. The proposed fee would apply to new connections within the three basins.

- (39) The Governor's Office and the S.C. Department of Commerce should be encouraged to expand the Economic Development Set-Aside Fund to include **all** components of infrastructure related to economic development.
- (40) An Economic Growth and Development Fund should be established, capitalized by relatively small annual contributions from multiple sources and capped at \$1 million. These funds would be allocated to specific projects on a "last resort" basis; that is, after all other avenues of funding had been exhausted and if the project had significant benefits for the development fund's contributors as well as the area economy in general. The following is a noninclusive list of potential fund participants:
- WCRSA
 - Duke Power
 - Greenville Water System
 - Combined Utility System (Easley)
 - Greer Commission of Public Works
 - Piedmont Natural Gas
 - Area Chambers of Commerce
 - Upstate cities and counties in the three-basin area
- (41) Upstate communities should be encouraged to adopt a long-range commitment to quality growth. County and municipal governments should explore innovative as well as traditional revenue sources to finance the infrastructure needed to make such growth possible.