

GSWSA Bull Creek Regional Water System – Taste and Odor Issues

Providing quality drinking water is a core value for Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (GSWSA). The water produced is tested daily to ensure that it not only meets or exceeds all United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' (SC DES) standards, but tastes good, too. During periods of extreme droughts and high temperatures, algae blooms can form that affect the taste and odor of drinking water. During these periods, your drinking water continues to meet all standards, and there are no associated health risks.

GSWSA is continuing its efforts to address the taste and odor issues that are affecting our customers served in Horry County by our Bull Creek Regional Water System. **The earthy/musty taste and odor is harmless.** It is caused by geosmin, which is produced from algae in water and is naturally occurring in the environment.

The change in taste and odor is caused by a naturally occurring algal bloom in our upstream reservoirs/impoundments that brings water to our Bull Creek Regional Water System in the Bucksport community to serve Horry County residents. The water in the streams can acquire a distinctive flavor from algae, which forms during temperature shifts in the warmer months. We have taken steps to lessen the algae bloom's affects by treating the water with powdered activated carbon (PAC) to absorb the taste and odor.

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of our efforts and adjust as needed.