

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Town of Williamston Waste Water Treatment Plant gets re-permitted to 2.0 MGD**

The Town of Williamston just received word from the NC Division of Water Quality that its permit has been amended to allow the treatment of 2.0 million gallons of wastewater per day (MGD), an increase of .32 MGD. This has come about from hard work by the Public Works Department and specifically Gene Reed and his supervisor Kerry Spivey of the Williamston Water and Sewer Department. With this expansion of treatment capability the Town can now take on new users and accommodate additional business and industry without needing to enlarge the plant.

To make this happen, the Water Department had to make many operational improvements and modify their procedures and methods used at the plant. The plant had to improve in its operational effectiveness and not get violations for such issues as high levels of BOD or suspended solids.

There are additional advantages that come from this effort. The plant is now running at 99% efficiency as defined by the State regulations. This means there is a higher water quality level being released into the Roanoke River. By not receiving violations, the town is not paying penalties and fees to the State which reduces the cost of doing business. Additionally more efficiency reduces the amount of sludge that must be transported and properly disposed. The cost to transport and disburse sludge is about \$35,000 for each event. With the improved efficiency of the plant, the Town has reduced its annual need to haul sludge. Additionally, this new capacity prolongs the need to enlarge the plant, delaying a cost up to \$10,000,000 or more.

The Town of Williamston is very pleased to receive this revised permit. It demonstrates our efforts and the efforts of our crews to hold the cost of doing business to a minimum while still complying with state and federal regulations and meeting the needs of our customers and citizens.