This unique opportunity gives residents the chance to gain authorization for any existing improvements – including both permanent and semi-permanent structures around Lake Bowen – that currently exist on Spartanburg Water property below the 827’ MSL Contour Line. All existing improvements, as of October 1, 2018, that are in good condition, will receive an authorization to remain on SWS property.

The Press Pause program is voluntary, but remember, it’s your chance to get improvements below the 827’ contour authorized and placed under your name before they are subject to the Lake Bowen Policies and Procedures, effective now. The Commission passed a revised document at the October 30, 2019, meeting.

SWS wants to make sure our neighbors fully understand that by participating in the Press Pause program, you will be able to keep any improvements on SWS property after December 1. Otherwise, after that date, nonconforming improvements are subject to removal. Please also note, with the new Lake Bowen Policies and Procedures, permits are now transferrable with the sale of property. If structures have not been properly permitted, nothing will transfer if the property is sold.

The Press Pause program will end at midnight on December 1, 2019.

You may register for Press Pause by using one of the following methods:
- Email: presspause@spartanburgwater.org
- Voice mailbox: 864-580-2095
- Register online: https://www.spartanburgwater.org/pause and click on the link
- Stop by the Lake Bowen Wardens’ Office and complete a request form

**Structures included in the program are:**
- Kayak racks
- Irrigation systems
- Light posts
- Gazebos/pergolas
- Swimming pools
- Cement slabs
- Statues and other decorative accents
- Water spigots
- 3 or more boat/PWC lifts
- Flagpoles
- Beaches
- Recirculating fountains
- Fences, in good condition

**Garages, outbuildings, and hot tubs will require an Encroachment Agreement. Our watershed staff will be happy to help you with this during the inventory of all items you have requested to include in the Press Pause program.**
Winterizing Your Boat

COOLER TEMPERATURES ARE COMING, BUT IS YOUR BOAT READY?

Winter weather can wreak havoc on a boat that’s not prepared for hibernation. We have some tips to winterize that could spare you from damage and costly repairs once the weather warms back up!

• **Replace engine oil:** Moisture and acids in old oil will pit bearings and other engine parts while in storage, so be sure to drain it first. Warm up the engine while in water so more of the dirty oil will drain out. Then replace it using high-quality oil and filters.

• **Flush and drain cooling water:** Water will expand when it freezes and can cause damage to your engine. To prevent this, flush the engine with clean water for several minutes, making sure all drain holes and plugs are open.

• **Stabilize fuel:** Fuel can deteriorate in as little as 60 days, causing build up in your engine. This can ultimately cause hard starting, poor performance, and reduced engine life. The easiest way to prevent these problems is by adding a high-quality marine fuel stabilizer. Then fill the tank with fresh fuel to prevent water condensation, which can cause corrosion.

• **Protect internal engine components:** While in storage, engine oil drains away. This exposes internal engine components to harsh elements in winter and can lead to corrosion and metal-to-metal contact. To prevent these issues, use a fogging oil spray. This specially-formulated product will get deep into the engine and coat parts with a protective layer.

• **Replace gear oil:** Drain the lower unit of old gear oil and replace it with a fresh supply.

• **Grease and lubricate:** Use a quality marine lubricant on your engine’s grease fittings to protect against rust, corrosion, and oxidation.

• **Tend to the inside:** Winter air can be problematic for vinyl interiors. Vinyl cleaners and protectants can prevent drying out and cracking. Invest in mildew sprays or chemical dehumidifiers that keep mildew-causing moisture out.

• **Remove electronics:** Moisture can also corrode on-board electronics and electrical systems. Remove any electronics you can, then spray all exposed electrical connections with a moisture-displacing lubricant.

• **Clean and wax:** Get rid of any unwelcome aquatic hitchhikers tagging along on the sides or bottom of your boat. Give it a good pressure washing and vacuum/wash all carpets and decks.

• **Cover:** Whether you choose to store your boat in or out of the water, you’ll need to take this step to protect it from snow, ice, and UV rays all winter. You have a number of options from plastic tarps to canvas tarps to fitted boat covers. Your boat is a big investment, so take these few simple steps to ensure it’ll be ready to hit the water when spring rolls back around!
Water Quality Monitoring Technology

A LOT OF WORK – AND SCIENCE – GOES INTO CLEANING YOUR WATER. SPARTANBURG WATER TESTS THOUSANDS OF SAMPLES EACH YEAR TO ENSURE YOU’RE GETTING THE VERY BEST – STRAIGHT FROM YOUR TAP.

It’s an operation that runs 365 days a year, and it’s no small task. Drinking water monitoring starts with quality source water in our reservoirs and continues in the drinking water treatment process and through the hundreds of miles of pipes it travels to our customers.

To monitor water quality throughout this journey, frequent testing of the chemical, biological, and physical properties of water occurs at each step throughout the process. This also includes the strategic utilization of specialized online instrumentation at the drinking water treatment facility that can monitor critical parts of the water treatment process in real-time. It takes our dedicated Laboratory Services and Drinking Water Treatment operational staff, as well as state-of-the-art equipment to collect, transport, test, and report the results of numerous samples before water is distributed to our customers.

The lab is certified as an approved environmental testing laboratory by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and must constantly undergo rigorous quality control testing. To give you some perspective, so far in 2019 alone, the lab has conducted more than 12,200 water quality tests on our lakes and watershed. That number is projected to exceed 24,000 by year’s end. Include drinking water and treated wastewater tests and the number can top 300,000 annually.

How does the lab staff collect and analyze so much data? The answer is with excellent technology and tools.

One of these tools is the Exo Sonde. This tool is taken out on each of our reservoirs and submerged into the water at a variety of depths. The water is analyzed every three feet – from surface to bottom – at a number of marked locations. Digital smart sensors on the end of the Exo Sonde measure an array of parameters right on site, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and total chlorophyll – and wirelessly store that data. With this tool, our lab staff is able to gather data for longer periods of time and with fewer interruptions.

In the lab, experienced analysts turn to other technology to read the data collected. One such tool is the FlowCam. This device analyzes a very important component… algae, which can impact taste and odor.

The FlowCam is a flow imaging microscope that captures high-resolution digital images of microscopic particles. From each particle, more than 40 physical parameters are calculated and can be analyzed using visual spreadsheet software. Lab technicians are able to compare the images to this database to determine which types of algae are present in a given water sample. This is not the only technology used to detect algae, however. We will soon add the GC Mass Spec to our lab as an additional technological advantage.

This piece of equipment will allow our lab technicians to test for taste-and-odor-causing substances, such as MIB and Geosmin produced by Blue-Green Algae, in house. Because this test is time-sensitive, our lab technicians currently have to overnight water samples to Indiana in order to have them processed within the 48-hour timeframe. Not only will the GC Mass Spec save our lab precious time, this is also an investment that will save money.

This equipment is just a glimpse at the tools and processes that go into ensuring the very best water quality. The other piece of the puzzle is the people – our dedicated and experienced team that run the water treatment facilities and lab 365 days a year.

Not only does the Lab Services Staff operate the lab, they also respond to calls from customers who may have a question or concern about their drinking water. In many cases, this results in a staff member going to the customer’s home and collecting a sample to test for water quality.

DHEC holds our lab to a high standard that our staff must work to uphold, but our team constantly goes the extra mile, conducting its own tests and analyses to make sure our customers are getting the very best every time they choose tap.

It’s thanks to our staff – and technology – that we’re able to achieve our mission: to provide quality water to our region in a reliable manner.
Surveying Project Now Complete

YOU MAY NOTICE SOME NEW SURVEY MONUMENTS AROUND LAKE BOWEN, LAKE BLALOCK, AND MUNICIPAL RESERVOIR #1. IF YOU’RE WONDERING WHAT THEY ARE, THESE CONCRETE AND METAL MONUMENTS SERVE AS BENCHMARKS TO HELP SURVEYORS ESTABLISH PROPERTY LINES.

Spartanburg Water commissioned a local surveyor to verify, replace, and install the markers around all three reservoirs. The six-month project wrapped up in September.

There are now 35 survey monuments around Lake Bowen, 20 around Lake Blalock, and nine around Reservoir #1. All of these markers are on Spartanburg Water property.

The survey monuments are an important tool for both Spartanburg Water and residents. They will help both our surveyors and surveyors hired by residents define property boundaries and prevent encroachments.

Spartanburg Water is pleased to have completed this project that will help ensure accuracy and provide clarity for all who share our drinking water reservoirs and the surrounding land.

Talks Result in Revised Policies and Procedures

AFTER SEVERAL PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS BETWEEN LAKE BOWEN RESIDENTS AND SPARTANBURG WATER – AND A REVIEW OF THE COMMENTS AND CONCERNS SHARED DURING THE RECENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE GUIDELINES THAT GOVERN OUR RESERVOIRS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH PARTIES.

One such success to come from this collaboration was the decision by the Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg to move forward with separate policies and procedures documents for each of the three reservoirs.

The original Lake Bowen Policies and Procedures and the Lake Bowen Irrigation Plan have been combined into one document that takes into consideration and implements many of the concerns and comments from Lake Bowen residents. These include simple landscaping maintenance below the 827’ MSL Contour Line and the transfer of permits following the sale of property.

The Commission voted in favor of moving forward with this revised policies and procedures document, which took effect on October 31, 2019.

You can review a printable copy of the updated document on our website, www.spartanburgwater.org.

Over the coming months, commissioners plan meet with residents from Lake Blalock and Municipal Reservoir #1 to discuss their individual documents and concerns.

The positive results we’ve achieved so far are an example of what we can accomplish when we all work together. We value our neighbors who share the lakes – and the land – and look forward to continuing to build strong relationships.