

## **Charleston County News Release**

Release Number: 2785

Date: March 7, 2007

SEE PHOTOS AND MAP: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/NewsImages/fleet.htm>

### **Charleston County Government Receives Environmental Excellence Award**

*SCDHEC awards the County's Fleet Operations Department for 10 years of responsible monitoring of over 11 million gallons of fuel*

Charleston County Government recently received an award for Environmental Excellence from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) through its Division of Underground Storage Tanks. The award was presented to Charleston County by Christine Sanford-Coker, DHEC's Region 7 Director, at the Feb. 27 County Council meeting.

The award was given to Charleston County for "Outstanding Underground Storage Tank Operations for non-retail operation since 1997."

Over this ten-year period, the County's Fleet Operations Fuel Management staff was responsible for monitoring and accounting for 11,665,025 gallons of combined unleaded, diesel and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. On a monthly basis, Fleet Operations is responsible for the electronic and visual monitoring of 111,500 gallons of fuel. The fuel is used for numerous County Government vehicles and equipment.

Two Fleet Operations staff members, Deborah C. White and Clarence W. Burbage, are responsible for oversight and field operations, respectively. Their director believes their hard work resulted in the county being given the DHEC award.

"The County received this award because of the hard work and dedication of two individuals, Deborah White and Clarence Burbage. Mrs. White's keen oversight, hands-on technical skills and attention to detail, coupled with Mr. Burbage's technical and operational skills, have combined to yield a highly successful and nearly flawless 10-year compliance effort," said Bob Gannon, Charleston County Fleet Management Director. "As their director, I find their commitment to excellence, safety and ensuring a clean and protected environment to be admirable. Their efforts make me proud to have them as part of the Fleet team."

DHEC conducts routine underground storage tank inspections each year at appropriate fueling sites. Their inspections are thorough, strict and comprehensive. Charleston County's Fleet Operations Fuel Management staff is responsible for ensuring that there are no product leaks and for maintaining the requirements to address any emergencies, such as spills or releases, should they arise.

Fleet Operations staff members are required to stay current on all federal, state and local regulations and industry standards in order to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the general public and its environment.

"We are extremely proud of this award. We know that in order to continue to be protective of our environment, it is imperative that our staff remain loyal and diligent to the department's underground storage tank monitoring and compliance program," Gannon said.

### **SIDEBAR – CHARLESTON COUNTY FUELING SITE STATISTICS**

- Charleston County Government currently has five fueling sites and two non-fueling sites. Of the seven total sites, four are underground storage tanks and three are aboveground storage tanks.

- Charleston County provides fuel to over 100 County and quasi-County departments and agencies.
- The underground storage tank inventory accounts for 75 percent of the total fueling inventory.
- All fueling sites are open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This makes them available for any emergency situation. All fueling sites have emergency backup generators.
- On a yearly basis, the County pumps approximately 1.25 million gallons of combined fuel product.
- Over the last ten years, the County's Fleet Operations monitored and accounted for 11,665,025 gallons of combined unleaded, diesel and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.
- On a monthly basis, Fleet Operations is responsible for the electronic and visual monitoring of 111,500 gallons of fuel.
- Fleet Operations Fuel Management staff has the primary responsibility for on-site operations, maintenance and checks of all underground storage tanks belonging to Charleston County Government.

Visit the Charleston County Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.

- Written by Jennie Davis -