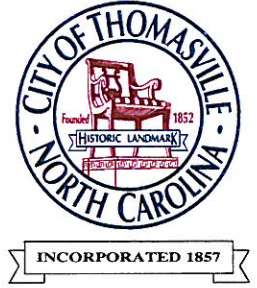




Office of City Manager

# CITY OF THOMASVILLE

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Press Release October 2, 2009  
From The City Manager's Office

The City of Thomasville is taking a series of coordinated actions to find answers to questions regarding the recent sanitary sewer overflow into Hamby Creek and to reduce the risk of future spills. The City is taking a four-pronged approach.

1. The City has hired Pease and Associates Consulting Engineers to analyze the City's sewer collection system and prioritize the immediate, short term and long term rehabilitation needs. The City also plans to have the firm proceed with developing construction plans, submitting construction plans to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for approval, assisting in the bid process, overseeing construction and certifying completed work.
2. The City has hired Brown and Caldwell, an environmental consulting firm, to review City records and other data to investigate the causes, duration, and size of the spill and any environmental impact, including any impact to High Rock Lake and its tributaries.
3. The City has hired one of the leading law firms in North Carolina, Brooks Pierce, to conduct an investigation of the handling of the spill.
4. The City has instituted interim procedures for spills and suspected spills that make all City employees part of the City's spill detection efforts. An employee who knows of or suspects that a spill may be occurring must communicate this information to supervisors and managers in the chain of command - including the City Manager. The City has also conducted interim creek water sampling and analysis for fecal coliform bacteria - beyond what is required by the state and federal governments. The procedures and creek sampling will be re-visited based on input from the on-going investigations.

Analyses of samples taken from the Abbotts Creek arm of High Rock Lake on September 19, 2009, July 14, 2009, and preliminary results from testing done August 11, 2009, indicate that fecal coliform levels are within standards.

In addition to commissioning its own investigations, the City will continue to assist state and federal agencies in any investigations and will update the public as new information becomes available.