

# SCDES eNews

September 2025 | [View as Webpage](#)



SC DEPARTMENT *of*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

## South Carolina Responds to First Major Weather Event of the 2025 Hurricane Season



At the end of September, South Carolina faced its first major weather activity of the [2025 hurricane season](#) as two tropical storms gained strength in the Caribbean. **Governor McMaster** declared a State of Emergency to ensure Team South Carolina had access to the resources and personnel needed to prepare for and respond to the approaching tropical system. SCDES worked closely with local emergency managers, the [South Carolina Emergency Management Division](#) (SCEMD), and the Governor's Office to stay ahead of potential impacts.

“While the forecast improved as the storm turned away from our coast, we prepared for every possibility,” said **SCDES Director Myra Reece**, who participated in the Governor’s press briefing. “Team South Carolina stands ready to protect lives, property and our natural resources whenever severe weather threatens.”

Proactively, SCDES used its [emergency alert system to alert owners of regulated dams](#) in areas that were initially expected to receive heavy rainfall, advising them to prepare their dams. Fortunately, **Tropical Storm Imelda** shifted away from the South Carolina coast, allowing the State of Emergency to be lifted.

[Hurricane season](#) is far from over. SCDES encourages South Carolinians to remain vigilant and have an emergency plan in place. Learn more at [scemd.org/hurricanes](https://scemd.org/hurricanes).

## Join us for the 2025 Environmental Assistance Conference!

**SCDES Director Myra Reece** will be the keynote speaker at this special event geared toward environmental compliance professionals and representatives from municipalities and counties who manage local environmental programs and need to understand state and federal regulations.

The EAC is Nov. 3 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center located at 1101 Lincoln Street in Columbia. Register to attend or be a vendor at: [des.sc.gov/EAC](https://des.sc.gov/EAC).

Nov. 3, 2025 | 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
**Myra Reece, SCDES Director**

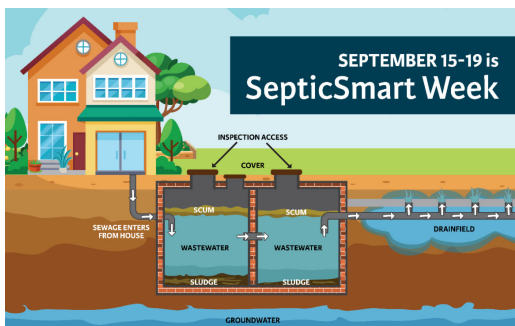
**Sessions topics:**

- Permitting & compliance assistance
- Environmental Programs 101
- AI & regulatory streamlining
- Demonstration of existing tools & best practices

**Target audience:**

- Environmental compliance professionals
- Business & industry representatives
- Local government officials who manage environmental programs
- Environmental consultants

SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## Governor Proclaims 'SepticSmart Week' to Highlight Proper Care of Septic Systems



To help draw focus on the important role of septic tank systems and the proper maintenance they require, Sept. 15-19 was recognized as “SepticSmart Week” in South Carolina by a proclamation issued by **Gov. Henry McMaster**.

The declaring of SepticSmart Week aligns with national efforts led by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) to educate homeowners about the need for proper septic system installation, use and routine maintenance in order to avoid environmental impacts.

South Carolinians are encouraged to learn more about their septic systems and take steps to maintain them properly. Find resources, information, check lists and more at [des.sc.gov/septic](https://des.sc.gov/septic).

## SCDES Shares UST Success at Brownfields Conference

**Preston Mousseau, Customer Service Liaison** with SCDES’s **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program**, recently joined forces with **Sara Miller from the EPA Office** of Underground Storage Tanks to present at the 2025 National Brownfields Training Conference.

Together, they highlighted how UST and Brownfields programs are creatively partnering to assess, clean up, and revitalize abandoned petroleum-contaminated sites, turning former gas stations and industrial properties into new opportunities for communities.

South Carolina showcased its innovative approach to former UST sites and learn from successful practices nationwide.

## We’ve Officially Landed in the Cloud!

We are pleased to announce that ePermitting has reached an important milestone in our ongoing digital transformation efforts by successfully transitioned to a cloud-based environment. This advancement enhances our scalability, improves system reliability and strengthens our foundation for continued innovation and efficiency across the organization.

*As part of this transition, please ensure any previously saved or bookmarked links are updated. The new cloud-based URLs are active and available: [ePermitting.des.sc.gov](https://ePermitting.des.sc.gov).*



**Aquatic Science Division Wraps Up 2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey**



**Director Reece Recognized for ECOS Service**

Our **Bureau of Water's Aquatic Science Division (ASD)** completed 2025 sampling for the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) on Sept. 17. This effort is part of EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) – a series of statistical surveys designed to assess the overall condition of the nation's coastal waters, lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams and wetlands.

NCCA is conducted every five years and builds on previous assessments to evaluate coastal water quality, sediment quality, benthic community condition and fish tissue contaminants.

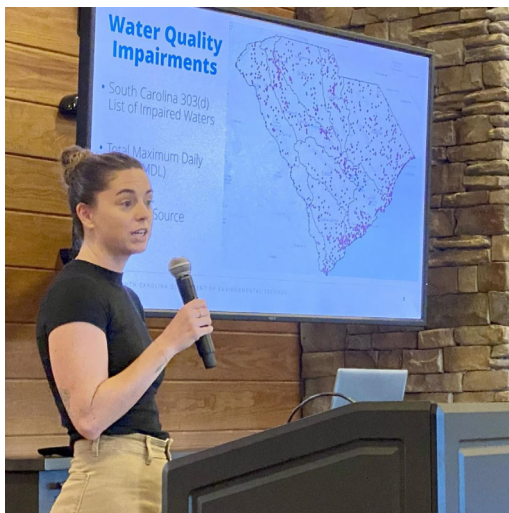
NCCA planning and coordination began early this year and included a weeklong EPA-led training in New Bern, N.C. The team completed this intensive survey on top of their core program responsibilities, demonstrating exceptional coordination, flexibility and teamwork.

SCDES is proud to recognize our **Director Myra Reece** for her five years of service on the leadership team of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS).

Through her role with ECOS, Director Reece has represented South Carolina on a national stage, strengthening relationships with state and federal partners and helping advance policies that protect people and the environment.

While she won't be serving as an officer this term, she will remain very engaged in committees and other opportunities to help shape the national agenda through ECOS.

Her leadership has reflected the values of SCDES and ensured South Carolina has a strong voice in shaping environmental priorities across the country. We are grateful for her dedication and the impact she has made through ECOS!



## SCDES Highlights Water Quality at Pee Dee Area Meeting

**Shea McCarthy, SCDES Nonpoint Source Coordinator**, recently presented at the S.C. Association of Conservation Districts Pee Dee Area Meeting. During her session "Reducing and Preventing Nonpoint Source Pollution," Shea shared information about water quality in South Carolina and its impacted by nonpoint pollution sources. She also explained how SCDES's Nonpoint Source Program can assist local communities in addressing nonpoint source pollution concerns through watershed planning, watershed plan development grants and Section 319 implementation grants.

Watershed plan development grants are available to eligible public entities to develop or update watershed plans in watersheds that provide source water for public drinking water systems or public supply wells. Section 319 implementation grants are available to public entities to implement recommended best management practices that improve water quality. Learn more at [Nonpoint Source Program webpage](#).



Now accepting nominations for the **S.C. Environmental Awareness Award!**

Through Oct. 17

[des.sc.gov/sceaa](https://des.sc.gov/sceaa)




## S.C. Environmental Awareness Award Accepting Nominations

The [Environmental Awareness Award](#), now in its 33rd year, honors individuals whose leadership, innovation, and dedication are helping to protect, conserve and improve our state's environment. **Nominations are now open through Oct. 17.** Nominees must be South Carolina residents of strong character who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to preserving our natural resources. Learn more at [des.sc.gov/sceaa](https://des.sc.gov/sceaa).



### SCDES Showcases Science and Environmental Resources

Team members from our Aiken and Orangeburg offices had a blast participating in **USC Aiken's Science Education Enrichment Day (SEED) STEM Festival**, the Aiken office's largest event of the year!

With more than 3,300 attendees, our staff hosted four engaging booths:

- Radioactive Hide and Seek
- Aquatic Invertebrates & Water Quality
- Mining & Reclamation in South Carolina
- The SCDES Radon Program

"This is a fantastic way for us to spark scientific curiosity in our youth and share



### S.C.'s Radiation Control Program Called 'Strong, Effective' by NRC

On Aug. 6, members of South Carolina's **Agreement State Program** met with the **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)** for a Periodic Meeting to review the state's radiation control program since the last evaluation in 2022.

The NRC uses these reviews to ensure state programs are adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with federal standards.

The summary noted:

- No issues or concerns were identified
- South Carolina continues to be a strong, effective, and well-managed Agreement State Program

environmental resources that SCDES offers to the community,” said **Madeleine Kellett, Environmental Surveillance & Oversight Program Outreach Coordinator.**

South Carolina has proudly served as an Agreement State since 1969, overseeing the licensing and regulation of certain radioactive materials to help keep our communities safe.



### **Environmental Lab Welcomes School District Leaders for a Tour**

**Connie Turner, Division of Air Quality Analysis Director with SCDES's Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services,** recently welcomed school district representatives from Lexington-Richland 5 to our environmental lab in Columbia. The tour was an opportunity to show how science and technology education has real-world applications in critical careers. SCDES's environmental lab is the main laboratory the agency uses for analyzing a wide array of environmental samples and producing data that help us protect South Carolina's air, land and water.

## **Where Passion Meets Preservation**

*As the state agency that protects and preserves South Carolina's environment, SCDES seeks talented individuals to join our team. We are scientists, engineers and inspectors as well as collaborators, educators, and public servants who work to ensure all South Carolinians have a healthy environment.*

- [Beachfront Management Project Manager \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Beachfront Management Section Manager \(PM I\) \\*Current SCDES Employees Only\\*](#)
- [Chemist II](#)
- [Chemist II \(Program support\)](#)
- [Coastal Compliance Project Manager \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Coastal Stormwater Permit Coordinator II \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Construction Permitting Engineering Associate \(EA I\)](#)
- [Dams Safety Engineering Associate II](#)
- [Law Enforcement Officer II \(Shellfish Monitoring Program\)](#)
- [Law Enforcement Officer II \(Shellfish Monitoring Program\)](#)
- [Microbiologist II](#)
- [Program Manager I - Brownfields Program](#)
- [Radiation Protection Specialist I \(EHM I\)](#)
- [RCRA Federal Facilities Groundwater Specialist II](#)
- [RCRA Federal Facilities Project Manager \(Engineering Associate I\)](#)
- [Recreational Waters Engineering Associate I \(EA I\)](#)
- [RIWM Compliance Specialist II \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Stormwater Compliance Permitting Eng Assoc I](#)

- [Drinking/Recreational Water Compliance Specialist \(EHMI \)](#)
- [Engineering Associate I](#)
- [Geologist/Hydrogeologist I](#)
- [Geologist/Hydrologist I](#)
- [Geologist/Hydrologist II](#)
- [Junior Soil Evaluator \(EHM I\)](#)
- [Junior Soil Evaluator \(EHM I\)](#)
- [Junior Soil Evaluator \(EHM I\)](#)
- [Stormwater Compliance Permitting Eng Assoc I \(EA I\)](#)
- [Stormwater Permitting Environmental Coordinator II \(EHM II\)](#)

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