

SCDES eNews

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SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

2025 Year in Review: Serving and Advancing a Resilient South Carolina



As we close out 2025, [SCDES](#) reflects with pride on a year marked by progress, collaboration and service. From advancing long-term planning efforts to expanding compliance assistance and public engagement, SCDES remained focused on protecting South Carolina's air, land, water and coastal resources while supporting communities, businesses and stakeholders. Thank you to our dedicated staff and partners who made this year so impactful and who will help us continue this progress into the new year!

A New State Water Plan

In 2025, SCDES developed a new [State Water Plan](#) as a critical roadmap for managing and protecting the state's water resources for current and future generations.

Developed at the Governor's direction by SCDES in collaboration with the WaterSC Water Resources Working Group and key partners, this plan provides a long-term strategy to ensure South Carolina's water resources are reliable and sustainably managed for at least the next 50 years.

Through collaboration with stakeholders, data-driven planning and regional engagement, this effort reinforces our commitment to sustainable water use, resilience and effective resource stewardship for the benefit of all South Carolinians.



2025 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE WATER PLAN THIRD EDITION



Environmental Assistance Conference: A Strong Return

The 2025 [Environmental Assistance Conference \(EAC\)](#) was a major success, bringing together professionals, business owners, local governments and partners to share knowledge, best practices, and updates



Expanding Support through the Office of Compliance Assistance

SCDES established its [Office of Compliance Assistance \(OCA\)](#) in 2025 to better assist businesses, local governments and organizations in

on environmental programs, permitting and regulations.

After a multi-year hiatus, the 2025 EAC was the highest-attended conference to date, with more than 400 stakeholders taking part. SCDES's environmental experts provided engaging sessions and presentations that strengthened connections, encouraged collaboration, and provided valuable tools to help organizations achieve compliance while protecting the environment.

understand environmental requirements.

OCA's goal is to reduce pollution, increase understanding of environmental regulations, and help entities prevent violations before they were to occur.

Through technical assistance, outreach and education, OCA supports compliance efforts while promoting practical, proactive solutions that protect South Carolina's natural resources and support balanced growth and development among our communities.

Director Myra Reece Confirmed

In May, the S.C. Senate officially [confirmed Myra Reece as the first director of SCDES](#). Director Reece, who was previously leading the agency as interim director, was nominated for the position by Gov. Henry McMaster. Her confirmation reinforces stability and forward momentum as the agency continues its mission to protect and enhance South Carolina's environment while serving the public with integrity, transparency and excellence.





Permit Central Workshops: Connecting and Educating

SCDES held six [Permit Central Workshops](#) across the state in 2025 to provide stakeholders with direct access to the agency's permitting staff and offer clearer insight into permitting processes. These workshops improved communication and helped applicants navigate requirements more efficiently, supporting transparency and customer

service.

2025 State of the Dams: Strengthening Safety and Oversight

The [2025 State of the Dams report](#) was published in October 2025, marking the 10-year anniversary of the historic 2015 flooding event that severely impacted the state and its dam infrastructure.

The detailed report underscores SCDES's ongoing commitment to dam safety and responsible reservoir management statewide. Through inspections, assessments, and collaboration with dam owners and local partners, SCDES continues to enhance oversight, identify risks and promote best practices for dam and reservoir management.



First 'Power of Partnerships' Award

SCDES Director Myra Reece and Lt. Governor Pamela Evette presented the inaugural SCDES [Power of Partnerships](#) award to the Watershed Evaluation Team (WET) of York County for its collaborative efforts in watershed planning and protection. WET is comprised of dedicated partner from in and around York County.



New Lake Conestee Dam: A Major Restoration Milestone

A historic milestone was achieved in 2025 with the success of the [Lake Conestee Dam Restoration Project](#), which replaced a 130-year-old dam that posed potential risks after nearly a century-and-a-half of operations.

This complex restoration project was the result of years of planning and collaboration and reflects SCDES's commitment to working with local partners and community members to modernize aging infrastructure in an effort to protect communities and the

environment.

Focused on the Future

As SCDES enters its second year as a standalone cabinet agency, we look forward to building upon our strong foundation while upholding our commitment to Science, Service and Sustainability.

Through a pursuit of continual improvement, the agency is focused on improving permitting processes and reducing permitting timeframes, building and strengthening local partnerships, providing compliance assistance to the permitted community, enhancing public engagement, and promoting environmental awareness. SCDES remains committed to delivering practical, science-based solutions that protect South Carolina's air, land, water and coastal resources and support responsible growth in communities throughout the state.



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.

- [Agriculture Compliance Specialist \(EHM III\)](#)

- [Laboratory Analyst I \(EHM I\)](#)

- [Air Quality Meteorologist Forecaster \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Air Regulation and Data Analysis Section Manager \(PM I\)](#)
- [Attorney III - Air Quality](#)
- [Attorney III - Bureau of Coastal Management](#)
- [Chemist II \(Program support\)](#)
- [Coastal Geospatial Data Analyst \(EHM II\)](#)
- [RCRA Federal Facilities Project Manager \(Engineering Associate I\)](#)
- [Solid Waste Permit Writer \(EA I\)](#)
- [UST Compliance Specialist I \(EHM I\)](#)

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