Notification of Wastewater Spill in Forsyth County

House Bill 1160, which the N.C. General Assembly enacted in July 1999, requires that municipalities, animal operations, industries and others who operate waste handling systems issue news releases when a waste spill of 1,000 gallons or more reaches surface waters.

In accordance with that regulation, the following news release has been prepared and issued to media in Forsyth County:

The R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Tobaccoville Manufacturing Facility at 7855 Doral Drive in Tobaccoville, N.C., had a discharge of untreated wastewater from a leak in a sewage line located at the north end of the manufacturing facility. Approximately 1,100 gallons of tobacco processing wastewater, which would not include domestic waste, were released.

The discharge occurred on May 6, 2008, at approximately 8 p.m., and lasted about six hours. Repairs began upon discovery of the leak.

The untreated wastewater entered a drainage ditch on the Tobaccoville property. The drainage ditch empties into a stormwater retention pond, also on the Tobaccoville property. Water from the retention pond flows into Barkers Creek. Barkers Creek is a tributary to Muddy Creek which flows to the Yadkin River.

“We have sampled water from our retention pond on the Tobaccoville property and at Barkers Creek, and those results are within normal ranges,” says Steve Curl, director of operations support services for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. “Also, no signs of distressed aquatic life were observed in Barkers Creek. While we are awaiting the results of additional tests, we will continue to monitor conditions.”

The N.C. Division of Water Quality was notified of the event on May 7, 2008, and is reviewing the matter.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, an indirect subsidiary of Reynolds American Inc. (NYSE: RAI), is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every three cigarettes sold in the country. The company’s brands include five of the 10 best-selling U.S. cigarette brands: Camel, Kool, Pall Mall, Winston and Doral. For more information, visit www.RJRT.com.