

City of Burlington  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
Date: April 21, 2014

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### **Notice of Intent Issued to City of Burlington**

BURLINGTON, NC – On April 15, 2014, the City of Burlington received a Notice of Intent to sue under the citizen suit provisions of the Clean Water Act for unpermitted discharges of untreated wastewater, commonly referred to as Sanitary Sewer Overflows, or SSO's.

The Notice of Intent was issued to the City by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of the Haw River Assembly and the Cape Fear River Watch. This notice was issued to address concerns these groups have associated with overflows from the City's Sanitary Sewer Collection System.

The City of Burlington has operated the sewer collection system under a collection system permit that was first issued in December of 2003. The City has received numerous inspections from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources over this 11-year period. These inspections have documented that the collection system has been operated and maintained in a manner compliant with regulatory guidelines and expectations.

Each year, the City evaluates the operation of the collection system and makes a report of all SSO's that have occurred during that year. This report includes such information as: where the overflow occurred, the main cause of the overflow and the volume of untreated sewage that reached surface waters. These reports are made available to the public annually.

The City of Burlington has been challenged by some unusual circumstances in the past year, but is confident that any examination of the City's compliance record will demonstrate that Burlington has been, and continues to be, committed to serving the citizens of Burlington and the downstream users of the Haw River.

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