

January 2026

Ewart Avenue Stormwater Emergency Project

In February 2025, Beckley experienced heavy rainfall that caused high water around town and destroyed the stormwater system on Ewart Avenue near the Exhibition Coal Mine. The event resulted in federal disaster declaration for Southern West Virginia. BSB received public assistance funding from FEMA and the state of West Virginia to replace the damaged system.

The final project included the addition of a new open drainage ditch capable of moving significantly more water during storms. A new headwall was installed with twin pipes to carry more flow safely under Ewart Avenue, reducing the risk of future flooding and incidents of water overtopping the road. In total, the project included 180 feet of new ditch line, 100 feet of 24-inch high durability pipe, and 15 feet of additional 12-inch pipe.

We know road closures and detours can be frustrating, and we appreciate the community's patience while this work was underway. Projects like this are just one example of what's happening behind the scenes when we interrupt traffic. These are long-term investments that protect public roads, reduce flooding, and keep water moving safely through the stormwater system.



Mind the Salt!

As temperatures drop, many of us reach for ice-melting salts to keep walkways safe. But using too much salt can harm streams, plants, and pets. Read the product guidelines, and sprinkle only what you need. Consider pet-safe or environmentally friendly options like calcium magnesium acetate to keep walkways safe without polluting our waterways or irritating pet's paws!

Beckley Sanitary Board
301 S. Heber St.
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 256-1760

www.beckleysanitaryboard.org

 [www.facebook.com/
BeckleySanitaryBoard](https://www.facebook.com/BeckleySanitaryBoard)

Wastewater Microbiology

This fall, students from WVU Tech's microbiology program visited our Wastewater Treatment Plant for an in-depth tour. The class had been studying the fundamentals of wastewater treatment in the classroom, and the visit gave them the chance to see those concepts in action! From primary treatment all the way through to final discharge, BSB treatment plant staff explained the physical, chemical, and microbiological processes that take place. The student group was highly engaged, asking thoughtful, insightful questions that reflected a strong understanding and curiosity of the science behind clean water.



Our team was thrilled to share how the plant protects local waterways and supports long-term environmental health for our community. Opportunities like this help students connect academic learning to real-world environmental protection, showing how everyday decisions—and the work happening behind the scenes—keep our rivers and streams clean. We welcome future tours from schools, community groups, and organizations interested in learning more about how wastewater treatment plays a vital role in safeguarding our environment. If your group would like to schedule a visit, please reach out!

Join Our Team in 2026!

We have several exciting opportunities opening soon for individuals interested in environmental protection, fieldwork, and serving our community. Whether you're starting your career or looking to grow in a hands-on role, we encourage you to explore our current openings:

- **Summer Internship (Environmental Science/Engineering)**

Ideal for recent high school graduates or college students, this paid summer internship offers real-world experience in environmental science, stormwater management, sampling, community outreach, and engineering support. Interns gain valuable field training while working alongside our staff to protect local waterways and support MS4 program initiatives.

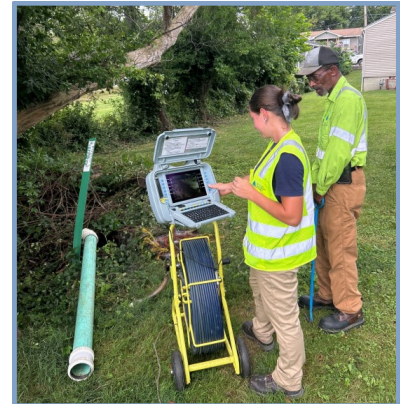
- **Environmental Inspector**

Our Environmental Inspector plays a key role in defending clean water by inspecting construction sites for proper stormwater controls, responding to illicit discharge complaints, reviewing best management practices, and helping ensure compliance with environmental regulations. This role is perfect for someone who enjoys fieldwork, problem-solving, and engaging with the community and contractors.

- **Utility Technician**

Utility Technicians support the backbone of our operations through hands-on fieldwork such as investigating customer concerns, leading in sewer and stormwater maintenance, and helping install or repair underground infrastructure. This is a great opportunity for individuals who enjoy physical, outdoor work and want to be part of a team that keeps essential services running smoothly.

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, email your resume to jobs@beckleysanitaryboard.org.



To report suspected stormwater pollution, please call BSB at 304-256-1760.