



For Immediate Release

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**CHEMICAL SPILL AT LAKE GRANBURY WATER TREATMENT PLANT
LEADS TO TEMPORARY SHUT DOWN**

July 29, 2011 -- A chemical spill inside the Lake Granbury Surface Water and Treatment System (SWATS) today has temporarily shut down the ultra filtration and reverse osmosis operation of the water treatment plant. Conventional treatment remains operational and will continue to provide water to customers of Johnson County Special Utility District, Acton Municipal Utility District, and the Cities of Granbury and Keene. Water treated at the SWATS plant continues to be safe to drink.

At approximately 12:45 p.m. Friday, July 29, 2011, a storage container of sulfuric acid ruptured spilling approximately 200 – 300 gallons of the chemical inside a building at the plant. One employee was exposed to the chemical. He was taken by ambulance to Granbury Medical Center for evaluation and has been released.

The DeCordova and Acton Fire Departments responded and remain onsite. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) crews arrived on the scene at approximately 3 p.m. to begin cleanup efforts. The ultra filtration and reverse osmosis portion of the plant will remain shut down until cleanup of the chemical is complete.

The Brazos River Authority is asking all residents that receive water from Johnson County Special Utility District, Acton Municipal Utility District, and the Cities of Granbury and Keene to begin conserving water during this temporary shutdown by curtailing outdoor watering, car washes, and refilling swimming pools until the plant resumes full operations.

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About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land.

Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.