



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST

CENTURY" **Sewerage & Water
Board** *OF NEW ORLEANS*

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Sewerage and Water Board Provides Update on Testing of Redundant Power Source

NEW ORLEANS – Four electro-mechanical devices (EMD), expected to provide much-needed backup power to New Orleans' water, sewer and drainage systems, successfully passed their first largescale test Thursday, Dec. 21.

The units, custom-built to each produce up to 2.5 MW of 25-cycle electricity, were subjected to a prolonged, synchronized performance test between 7 a.m. and 7:35 p.m. at the Carrollton Water Plant (8800 South Claiborne Ave.).

When tied into the agency's power system, the EMDs collectively will provide about as much electricity as an extra steam-powered turbine. That will be a critical addition toward securing redundant power sources ahead of the 2018 hurricane season.

"The success of these tests was a big step toward plugging these EMDs into the Sewerage & Water Board's power grid," **said Sewerage and Water Board Director of Communications Richard Rainey.** "We regret any inconvenience the loud noise from these units may have caused, but they are essential to safeguarding the city."

Noise levels were closely monitored within a three-block radius of the EMDs, which are stationed near the corner of Spruce and Monroe streets. The Sewerage & Water Board, with the help of the city's Health Department, distributed notices and earplugs Wednesday to nearby residents in anticipation of Thursday's tests.

While the S&WB is exempt from the New Orleans Noise Ordinance, the agency asked for a noise variance out of an abundance of caution. The Health Department approved it Wednesday.

The Sewerage & Water Board is working on both temporary and long-term noise abatement strategies for the neighborhood. Board officials have sought to keep residents fully informed throughout the EMD installation process.

The EMDs were installed as part of an emergency strategy by the City and the Sewerage & Water Board to bolster this essential agency's infrastructure after the July 22 and Aug. 5 flood events.

A fifth EMD was damaged during a brief test on Nov. 29. Repairs are underway. Because Sewerage and Water Board has not yet accepted ownership of the EMD's, it is not responsible for the repairs. Repairs are being made by the manufacturer on site.

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