



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

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

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For Immediate Release
December 20, 2017

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Noise Variance: Sewerage and Water Board to Test Redundant Power Source

NEW ORLEANS – Tomorrow, The Sewerage & Water Board will be testing four electro-mechanical devices (EMD) that, once online, will provide much-needed backup power to New Orleans' water, sewer and drainage systems. Testing will occur at the EMD site at the Carrollton Water Plant (8800 S. Claiborne Ave.), near the corner of Spruce and Monroe Streets.

The test, which will run between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, is critical to ensuring the redundant power produced by these units will be available in the

future to power the agency's critical infrastructure. The EMD motors, however, can be exceedingly loud.

The S&WB is working closely with the Health Department to ensure residents are well informed and that steps are taken to mitigate the noise.

As a public utility, the S&WB is exempt from the New Orleans Noise Ordinance. Out of an abundance of caution, the agency asked for a noise variance, which the Health Department granted.

Information pamphlets and earplugs will be distributed to about 125 households closest to the EMD site near the corner of Spruce and Monroe Streets. Residents can pick up additional plugs at the Claiborne Avenue front gate of the Carrollton Water Plant between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. 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. Each can provide 2.5 MW of 25-cycle electricity.

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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