



“RE-BUILDING THE CITY’S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, *President*
SCOTT JACOBS, *President Pro-Tem*

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52-WATER
www.swbno.org

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Martin (504) 655-1358

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Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans Positively Exceeds EPA Requirements in 2016 Testing of Drinking Water

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana Department of Health tested New Orleans drinking water and found the levels of lead in the drinking water on the East Bank and the West Bank are well below limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 parts per billion (ppb). This means utilities must ensure that water from customers’ taps does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes sampled. The 90th percentile for New Orleans drinking water on the East Bank is 7 ppb and 3 ppb on the West Bank.

Executive Director of Sewerage and Water Board Cedric S. Grant said, “We are committed to providing the citizens of New Orleans with high quality drinking water. This testing and our persistent water quality monitoring effort validate our commitment to the community.”

New Orleans Health Department Medical Director Dr. Joseph Kanter said, “Clean drinking water is essential for a healthy community. By meeting and surpassing the guidelines set forth in the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule, Sewerage and Water Board offers continued assurance our municipal water supply is safe. I applaud them on this achievement.”

Of the 107 samples tested, only two were above the EPA action level. To lower the risk of lead for those customers, the Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB) has already contacted them, offering to change out their lead service lines from the water main to the meter at no charge. S&WB also offered to test the drinking water in those homes and to monitor water quality after the lead lines have been replaced.

Only homes with lead service lines or with copper pipes and lead solder installed between 1982 and 1988 qualify for testing. Many of the homes in New Orleans had their lead service lines replaced after Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, homes constructed after 1988 were not allowed to use lead, which up until then had been a standard of the industry.

S&WB provides drinking water that is lead-free as it leaves the treatment plants.

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