



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN, *President*

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER
www.swbnola.org

May 11, 2008

To: News Media

From: Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans

Re: Chemical Residue Leak On Two Algiers Streets

Contact: Robert Jackson, 269-7978, or Brenda Thornton, 269-7819

Release Immediately

Residue of a chemical used in the water purification process spilled on to two streets in Algiers this morning near the Algiers River Intake Station.

The residue of ferric sulfate poses no threat to the public, but direct contact could cause irritation of eyes and skin.

The affected streets are Brooklyn, between Lamarque and Diana, and DeArmas, between Brooklyn and Teche.

The New Orleans Police Department blocked off the area and the New Orleans Fire Department's Hazmat Unit went door-to-door asking residents to remain indoors until the chemical is removed. It is estimated that 12 residences are in the vicinity of the discharge. The Sewerage & Water Board has contracted with an environmental clean-up company to neutralize the chemical and dispose of it safely.

A pipe carrying only river water to the River Intake Station apparently broke, allowing water to flow into a nearby conduit which had some ferric sulfate residue in it. The residue was washed into areas of the two streets.

The intake station is expected to be shut down for several more hours, but the water treatment plant continues to supply Algiers with pure, treated water from in-house reserves while repairs are made.

The material is expected to be cleaned up by 3 or 4 p.m. today and the leak repaired by the same time.