



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

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To: News Media

From: Sewerage and Water Board of N.O.

Re: Algiers Water Intake

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

Release: Immediately

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is asking Algiers residents and business owners to reduce water usage as much as possible while efforts are underway to clean up a fuel spill in the river.

The Board shut down its raw water intake in Algiers at 3:15 this morning after an operator noticed a fuel odor and sheen in the area of the intake.

None of the fuel entered the water distribution system, but some did enter the treatment plant. It is being removed with oil absorbing material and equipment.

The East Bank of Orleans Parish is not affected at all.

The Algiers Plant is operating on its reserve storage of 15 million gallons which should last throughout the day. Pressure at the plant is being reduced to 50 pounds per square inch (psi) to help conserve water.

60 psi is the normal pressure, and the slight reduction will not affect service or fire fighting capabilities.

S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, "We are doing everything possible to protect the water system in Algiers. The water is safe to drink and use, but we are asking our Algiers customers to reduce their use of water as much as possible while we use our reserve supply."

Booms have been placed near the intake by the Coast Guard in an attempt to keep the fuel away from the intake. The intake will be used again once the Coast Guard notifies the Board that the spill has dissipated, dispersed or been contained.

The Board will provide updates on the situation during the day.