



"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.swbno.org

July 24, 2008

To: News Media

From: Sewerage & Water Board of N.O.

Re: Algiers Water Intake Update

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

Release: Immediately

The Sewerage & Water Board said today that the tests performed at its state-of-the-art Water Quality Laboratory showed that all samples collected Wednesday night were normal and revealed no evidence of elevated contaminants.

The lab collected and analyzed samples from the Algiers River Intake and the Algiers Plant throughout the night. Chemists will be collecting samples from the Algiers distribution system today for analysis.

Taste and odor testing showed that all finished water samples from the Algiers Plant were free from any unusual tastes or odors. The Board, in an abundance of caution, is also collecting samples from Algiers for an analysis by an independent lab to obtain a second opinion to determine if there is any impact from the spill on the quality of the water. In addition Department of Health and Hospitals is performing a backup series of test on the same samples.

Algiers residents and business owners are advised by the Sewerage & Water Board that several special processes are being used to remove the fuel from yesterday's spill and prevent it from going into the intake system.

The Algiers Raw Water Intake was put back into service at 3:15 Wednesday afternoon, 12 hours after it was shut down. We resumed normal operation from reserved operations at approximately 7pm last night.

S&WB officials said the special processes to remove the fuel include adding powdered activated carbon at the intake and the use of special oil absorbing materials and equipment inside and outside of the plant.

The Board has since early yesterday morning, contracted with an environmental clean-up company, United States Environmental Services (USES) to help S&WB staff with supplies and manpower for the oil-absorbing operation. This arrangement will be in effect until the situation on the river concludes.

Booms provided by the Coast Guard remain in place near the intake in an attempt to keep the fuel away from the intake, this is in addition to booms placed by our contractor.

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

The Algiers Plant operated on its reserve storage of 15 million gallons for most Wednesday. Pressure at the plant was reduced to 50 pounds per square inch (psi) to help conserve water. 60 psi is the normal pressure, and the slight reduction did not affect service or fire fighting capabilities.

S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, “We will continue to do everything possible to protect the water system in Algiers and will fully cooperate with all Federal, State and local officials until this crisis has ended.”

The Board will provide updates on the situation as needed.