



**“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 & Water Board of N.O.  
Re: Algiers Water Intake Update  
Contact: Robert Jackson, 269-7978 or  
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Release: Immediately

The Sewerage & Water Board said today that the tests performed at its Water Quality Laboratory showed that all water samples collected to date remain normal and reveal no evidence of contaminants associated with the spill.

These results are the same as those reported from early testing by Materials Management Group of New Orleans, an independent testing firm hired by the City.

MMG reports, “There is no indication that the contamination from the oil spill has passed through the Sewerage and Water Board Algiers Facility and into the distribution system”.

More results from MMG are expected within a few days. The firm is coordinating a number of specialized complex tests for possible contaminants associated with the type of fuel oil spilled into the river.

S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, “We are pleased to report, to date, that the results of testing by our own professional chemists match those of MMG. The independent firm was hired in an abundance of caution to ensure our Algiers customers that all steps are being taken for their safety and the integrity of the water system.”

Water samples are being collected and analyzed from the Algiers River Intake and the Algiers Plant on a 24-hour basis. Samples are also being taken from various locations in the Algiers water distribution system.

Taste and odor testing continue to show that all finished water samples from the Algiers Plant were free from any unusual tastes or odors.

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

Algiers residents and business owners were advised by the Sewerage & Water Board on Thursday that several special processes are being used to remove the fuel from the spill and prevent it from going into the distribution system.

The Algiers Raw Water Intake was put back into service at 3:15 Wednesday afternoon, 12 hours after it was shut down.

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 the plant.

The Board has since early Wednesday 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 the contractor, USES.

The Board will provide updates on the situation as needed.

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