



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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Spill Update

The Sewerage and Water Board announced that out of an abundance of caution the Algiers Water Plant shut down its intake operations at approximately 8:15 AM this morning. This shut down occurred due to notification from the Coast Guard of another release of oil from the same damaged barge responsible for the spill incident last week. It should be noted that the shut down of plant intakes is a normal emergency procedure employed by the Board for many years whenever a chemical or oil spill occurs on the river near Board intakes.

In addition, the Board has since the incident began on July 23, 2008 hired an environmental remediation firm, placed additional booms at our intake as well as increased monitoring and sample testing at both the site of the intake and within the Algiers Plant. These added measures will continue until this incident is concluded.

The Algiers water system was served by the Board's on-site drinking water storage reserves while the situation was properly assessed. After an assessment that included an analysis of the river water quality at the intake and the finished water in the plant by the Board's laboratory as well as visual monitoring for contamination at the intake site and within the plant, and discussions with other governmental agencies monitoring the situation, the decision was made by the Board's staff and operation managers to resume river intake and treatment operations at 2:30PM.

Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, "We will continue all monitoring, collecting of samples and testing to ensure the quality and integrity of our drinking water. Our entire staff continues to work hard, untiringly and professionally during this crisis to provide Algiers with the finest water for personal needs, fire fighting and the operation of businesses."