



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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Venetian Isles Remains Under Boil Water Advisory

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans continues the Boil Water Advisory for the Venetian Isles area until further notice.

The Board is working closely with the State of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) in resolving the conditions that led to the issuance of the boil advisory.

Board staff will continue to tenaciously pursue all possible avenues and methods to provide a timely resolution to this boil advisory and re-establish the conditions necessary to ensure that the drinking water provided to S&WB customers is safe for consumption.

S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, "The problem is twofold. First, we are experiencing sporadic coliform positive bacteriological samples from the area.

"And second, we are having difficulty maintaining an adequate amount of chlorine in the system in the Venetian Isles area. The low amount of chlorine makes it difficult to get the coliform problem under control."

Board chemists said it should be noted that coliform bacteria are used to indicate that environmental conditions exist that are favorable for the growth of microorganisms.

They added, “Although we have performed an extensive, multiphase analysis of the system, we have not to date been able to pinpoint the exact source of the problem.

“Since we have yet to identify a specific point through which the system could have been breached by storm surge flooding, the most likely explanation is that the low usage volume due to dual hurricane evacuations resulted in a loss of the chlorine in the system, allowing the microorganisms to multiply beyond a manageable population.”

Since a system evaluation and flushing efforts have not brought success to date, the Board is preparing to take steps to provide additional disinfection for the affected area. Residents are advised that they may detect a chlorine odor from the tap water as a result of the additional disinfection process.

And, the S&WB is currently providing bottled water to the residents of Venetian Isles. It is being stored and distributed at the fire station on Alba St. There are no reports from DHH of illness resulting from this event. The Board has consulted with DHH on a continuing and regular basis since this event began.

With regard to bathing, both DHH and the S&WB stand by the original boil advisory language that residents should not drink, bathe or shower with water straight from the tap.

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