

From: Ryan F. Berni [rfberni@nola.gov]
Sent: Sunday, November 21, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Ryan F. Berni
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ADVISORY
CANCELLED
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2010

Contact:
Ryan Berni
504-658-4992 (office)
504-621-9504 (cell)

PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ADVISORY CANCELLED

NEW ORLEANS, LA- Mayor Landrieu, public health officials, and Sewerage & Water Board officials announced this evening that the precautionary Boil Water Advisory issued for the East Bank of Orleans Parish yesterday has been cancelled. Test results were verified by the state Department of Health and Hospitals.

"After following the protocols of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Health and Hospitals, and after working with doctors, engineers, chemists and other experts, we can report that the water in New Orleans is safe and the precautionary Boil Water Advisory is cancelled," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

State health regulations required the precautionary Boil Water Advisory and testing because water pressure dropped below 15 psi (pounds per square inch) which increases the risk of contaminants entering the water system.

At approximately 7:00 am on Saturday, the Sewerage and Water Board's chemists and technicians began collecting 28 water samples from sites throughout the East Bank. In an abundance of caution, a second round of sampling began at 2:00 pm Saturday. Tests were conducted at the Board's Water Purification Laboratory. A 24-hour incubation period is required to determine if any harmful bacteria are present in the samples.

At approximately 10:30 pm on Friday, the Sewerage & Water Board lost 25-cycle power at its main water plant, causing low water pressure (as low as 10 pounds per square inch) throughout the East Bank of the City. According to the Board, water pressure has normalized.

The Mayor has ordered an after action report of the incident.

###