



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

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

Mitchell J. Landrieu, President

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S&WB Assures Customers That Oil Discharge in Gulf Has No Effect On Quality of City's Drinking Water

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, in response to concerns of some customers, is assuring all citizens that the oil discharge in the Gulf of Mexico is having no effect on the quality of drinking water in the City.

Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, "The oil has not and is not expected to come upriver or to reach the Board's water intakes on either side of the Mississippi River. We are, of course, monitoring the situation and staying in touch with all agencies involved in the clean up."

Intakes draw raw water from the river the water is then thoroughly treated to highest quality standards for use as drinking water.

The S&WB constantly monitors for chemical discharges, spills and leaks in the river, and its water quality laboratory tests for compounds on a 24-hour basis.

Mrs. St. Martin added, "Our intake stations are staffed day and night and operators often report discharges by sight or smell. Booms constantly surround the intakes to help prevent discharges from ships, barges or industrial plants from reaching the intakes."

The Board is also part of an early warning system, whereby other water treatment plants along the river notify each other of discharges. The Coast Guard and the state Department of Environmental Quality also participate in the system.

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