



Plaquemines Parish Government

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2023

info@ppgov.net

504-934-6021 or 504-296-0784

GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH

Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana- In response to the escalating threat of a saltwater wedge advancing rapidly up the Mississippi River, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency in Plaquemines Parish. This crucial decision aims to provide continuous assistance to parish officials who are grappling with the severe impacts of the Venice-Boothville drinking water system.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, President Hinkley has been actively coordinating efforts with key agencies such as Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Louisiana Air National Guard, and the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (USACE). Their collaborative initiatives have been strategically focused on implementing both short term and long-term solutions to mitigate the efforts of this relentless intrusion.

To address the immediate needs of the affected residents, Plaquemines Parish Government and GOSHEP have generously supplied over 200,000 bottles of water to the community, ensuring a daily delivery of water and ice. In a bid to safeguard the water treatments plants in Belle Chasse and Dalcour (Braithwaite), the USACE has decided to construct a protective sill. Additionally, PPG is exploring options to place a reverse osmosis unit at the Boothville treatment plant, complete emergency repairs at the Port Sulphur treatment plant, which suffered damage during the recent IDA hurricane and place a temporary booster at Alliance to boost water from Belle Chasse to Venice.

To guarantee ongoing relief for the affected residents, PPG and GOSHEP will conduct weekly meetings, actively exploring all available options. It is their joint commitment to ensure that consistent assistance and support are provided to those impacted by this disruptive intrusion.

Despite these proactive measures, a drinking water advisory remains in effect for the Empire Bridge to Venice area until further notice. Water and ice distribution points have been established at the Boothville-Venice and Buras fire stations.

Please note that there is a limit of two cases per household for the distributed water.

If you have any questions about this advisory or concerning your water utility, please contact Inframark at (504) 392-4177.

On behalf of Plaquemines Parish & Inframark we greatly appreciate your cooperation and thank you for your patience.

####
