



Plaquemines Parish Government

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2023

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504-934-6021 or 504-296-0784

PLAQUEMINES PARISH & INFRAMARK ISSUED THE DRINKING WATER ADVISORY FROM THE EMPIRE BRIDGE TO VENICE AREA

Plaquemines Parish, LA- Plaquemines Parish and Inframark issued a drinking water advisory effective immediately from the Empire Bridge to Venice area. The Plaquemines Parish's Boothville water system has been experiencing higher levels of sodium and chloride from a saltwater wedge that is moving up the Mississippi River.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies contaminants in two categories: primary (those that have a known health threat) and secondary (those that are not a threat to health). Chloride is considered a secondary contaminant that can affect the taste, odor, and color of drinking water.

EPA's secondary maximum contaminant level for chloride is 250 milligrams per liter. The parish's drinking water exceeded that level, and these levels may fluctuate based on the saltwater wedge's movement.

Sodium levels found in the Parish's drinking water had also exceeded at higher levels than usual. EPA does not classify sodium as a primary or secondary contaminant. Individuals who are on a low-sodium diet for other health reasons such as high blood pressure or kidney diseases should pay special attention to sodium levels in their drinking water.

The Louisiana Department of Health recommends that people receiving drinking water through systems in this parish who are on dialysis and/or low-sodium diets check with their health care providers related to the levels of chloride and sodium in their drinking water. Water that has exceeded 250 mg/L of chloride should not be consumed by pregnant women and should not be used to mix with baby formula.

LDH is actively working with the system regarding this issue.

Plaquemines Parish is actively monitoring the situation and is investigating possible ways to lower the sodium and chloride levels. Water and Ice pick-up will be available June 21st at the Boothville-Venice and Buras Fire stations. The Parish is limiting water to two cases per household per day.

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.

For more information about Plaquemines Parish, visit www.plaqueminesparish.com. Residents and business owners can also receive regular updates by following the Parish on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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