



**PRESS ALERT**  
**CITY OF GRETNA**  
**For Immediate Release**

September 25, 2023

For more information, contact  
City of Gretna Emergency Line  
(504) 247-4016

**City of Gretna (70053) Salt Water Intrusion**

*Gretna, LA* — in response to the update on Friday, September 22, provided by Governor Bel Edwards regarding the emerging salt water intrusion throughout our area, the City of Gretna advises the residents living in the zip code 70053, who receive water from the City of Gretna water treatment facility, that they are at no risk of salt intrusion at this time. The City of Gretna will be carefully monitoring the situation for the next several weeks and will provide updates to the public as more information becomes available.

Drought conditions in our region have allowed for saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico to reach areas along the Mississippi River that historically do not experience this difficulty. The Mississippi River water level is below average due to unseasonably low amounts of rainfall upstream and in our region, which allows for the saltwater to intrude further upriver. These conditions present unique challenges for the water treatment facilities that use the Mississippi River as their primary water source. Mayor Belinda Constant is working diligently with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Jefferson Parish Emergency Management, and regional municipalities to ensure the health and safety of Gretna residents.

Chloride level is a measurement used to determine the amount of salt in water. The drinking water standard for chloride in Louisiana is 250mpl. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will issue a public advisory if chloride levels increase beyond 250mpl and pose a potential health risk to Gretna residents.

The U. S. Army Corp of Engineers issued a forecasted saltwater progression timeline, which includes estimated impacts for the Gretna water intake to be around October 24, 2023. The City of Gretna wants its residents to be assured that we are doing all we can do to prepare for any potential impacts to our city.

To stay informed about updates regarding the saltwater intrusion on the Mississippi River, visit [www.emergency.la.gov/saltwater](http://www.emergency.la.gov/saltwater), and, for health-related information, read over the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)-issued FAQ document at the same website. Please stay tuned for further details on the City of Gretna's Facebook and website.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CityOfGretna](http://www.facebook.com/CityOfGretna)

Website: [www.gretnala.com](http://www.gretnala.com)

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