

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT PROCLAMATION NUMBER 41 JBE 2017

TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH

- WHEREAS,** the Town of St. Joseph has, for the last few years, experienced problems with a poorly maintained and deteriorating water distribution system;
- WHEREAS,** as a result of the problems with the water distribution system, there have been continuous interruptions in service and boil advisories;
- WHEREAS,** while the Town has finally begun the process of repairing the water system, a process which is anticipated to continue until 2018, the system continues to deteriorate at a significant pace;
- WHEREAS,** on December 15, 2016, test results from two of thirteen sites in the Town evidenced elevated levels of lead;
- WHEREAS,** these two samples were taken from the interior of two buildings, including the Town Hall and a private residence, and the samples taken from the distribution system itself do not show elevated levels of lead;
- WHEREAS,** based on these findings, and in the abundance of caution, there is reason to believe that further problems will develop, and that there is a threat of an imminent public health emergency;
- WHEREAS,** the public health authority has consulted with the Governor and advised that he has determined that the threat of a public health emergency, as defined in La. R.S. 29:762, is imminent;
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana, and to ensure the State has the ability to respond, rapidly and effectively, to potential or actual public health emergencies;
- WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:766(B) empowers the Governor to declare a state of public health emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both; and
- WHEREAS,** it is necessary to issue this declaration to ensure an efficient and effective State response.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 *et seq.*, and more specifically, La. R.S. 29:766, a state of public health emergency is hereby declared to exist within the Town of St. Joseph in Tensas Parish.

SECTION 2: The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana National Guard, and the Louisiana Department of Health are hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law deemed appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this event.

SECTION 4: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Saturday, April 15, 2017 until Sunday, May 14, 2017, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 13th day of April, 2017.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

SECRETARY OF STATE