



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 146 JBE 2023

RENEWAL OF STATE OF EMERGENCY – SALTWATER INTRUSION-PLAQUEMINES PARISH

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency was declared through Proclamation Number 115 JBE 2023;
- WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;
- WHEREAS,** due to the extremely low flow rate and low Mississippi River, saltwater continues to negatively impact the drinking water supply to over 2,000 residents and businesses in Plaquemines Parish from the Empire Bridge to Venice;
- WHEREAS,** chloride readings at various water treatment plants in Plaquemines Parish continue to be abnormally high, and sodium levels in the Parish's drinking water continue to exceed normal levels;
- WHEREAS,** forecasts continue to show that due to minimal rainfall, Mississippi River levels will continue to drop, contributing to higher levels of chloride and sodium;
- WHEREAS,** Plaquemines Parish has continued its state of emergency, and will continue to need assistance from the State in their response to this developing threat to the safety, health, and security of its citizens, as well as to the normal operation of public facilities;
- WHEREAS,** La. R.S. 29:724 authorizes the governor during a declared state of emergency to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and
- WHEREAS,** it is necessary to continue the measures provided in Proclamation Number 115 JBE 2023 to further protect the health and safety of the citizens of Louisiana.

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 Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.
- SECTION 2:** The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

- SECTION 3:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:732. during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.
- SECTION 4:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551. *et seq.*) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any good or services necessary to respond to this emergency, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.
- SECTION 5:** 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 saltwater intrusion event.
- SECTION 6:** This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Tuesday, August 22, 2023 to Wednesday, September 20, 2023, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 21st day of August, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Kelly Moore", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE