



625 St. Joseph Street
New Orleans, LA 70165
504.529.2837 or 52.WATER

February 11, 2026

The Operations Committee met on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Executive Boardroom. The meeting convened at approximately 10:48 a.m.

Present:

Director Chadrick Kennedy
Director Kimberly Thomas
Director Ariane Greenidge

Absent:

Director H. Davis Cole

PRESENTATION ITEM:

A. Uptown Water Main Break - Kaitlin Tymrak, Interim General Superintendent, SWBNO and Steven Giang, Deputy General Superintendent, SWBNO

On January 31, 2026, a 48-inch water main, installed in 1908, broke in the 7900 Block of Panola Street. A presentation by the General Superintendent's Office provided a 72-hour overview of how staff promptly isolated the break and made the necessary repairs.

Committee members applauded the utility's response time and active communication throughout various media platforms. As part of the discussion, the committee asked if the cost for repairs was known and whether FEMA would be able to fund this emergency incident. Mr. Giang advised that the cost of repairs would be forthcoming, and that the area of repair is ineligible for FEMA funding.

Continued discussion addressed SWBNO's limited ability to proactively replace pipes once they have reached the end of their useful life. A lack of funding remains the utility's biggest hurdles. Mr. Giang noted that breaks in the utility's larger mains have occurred historically on a sporadic basis.

Ms. Tymrak confirmed additional work is being completed in the area, such as installing a new fire hydrant. The committee requested a follow-up on the incident to include cost of repairs and an updated completion timeline. The committee also recommended that SWBNO continues its communication efforts through various social media channels.



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PUBLIC COMMENT

- Angela Kinlaw, a community member recognized the responsiveness and immediacy of SWBNO's efforts to fix the Panola main break. Ms. Kinlaw also provided comments on reducing third party contracting, focusing on employing local residents, and being proactive with planning for future projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Operations Committee, Director Kennedy made a motion to adjourn. Director Thomas moved. Director Greenidge seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:02 a.m.