



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS**

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## **THE POWER TO RECOVER NEW ORLEANS SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD'S POWER SYSTEM**

### **THE LINCHPIN OF RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH CRISIS**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and the recent battering of the City of New Orleans by Hurricane Gustav, the Sewerage and Water Board's power generation system provided the needed and reliable energy to make the Board's systems operable. Commercial power failed and the Board's power became the primary power source to provide water, drainage and sewer services to the City of New Orleans.

The Sewerage and Water Board has operated a 25-Hertz power generation plant and electrical distribution system to provide 60 megawatts of peak power to critical drainage and water systems and portions of the sewer system since the early 1900's.

The catastrophic effects of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav have demonstrated the absolute need for 100 percent reliable storm water pumping and potable water capacity during and after such events.

Upgrading the Sewerage and Water Board's power generation system is as urgent as fortifying the levees and restoring coastal wetlands to ensure that the City of New Orleans can survive these natural disasters.

This power generation system is part of a redundant operation that is a back-up system to commercial power and is not designed to operate as the sole source of power to sustain the water, drainage and sewer operations. The continuous and strenuous operation during these major storm events has caused extreme wear, along with the damage from salt water from the flood waters of Katrina, on a very fragile system's infrastructure.

With the impact to the system from such destructive storms, it is critical to upgrade and rebuild this system. There is a need for a modern, reliable system that is safe from flood events brought on by hurricanes or other natural or man-made events.

A much needed upgraded power generation system will provide economic, public health, environmental and security benefits. It will improve reliability by ensuring that dependable, uninterrupted power is always available to protect life and property by maintaining potable water pumping and fire-fighting capacity, ensuring that critical transportation facilities and roads are operational and protect local, state and national economic and security interests embodied in New Orleans' position as a major port and hub for oil and gas and other important industries.

The Sewerage and Water Board is ready to move forward immediately. Conceptual plans for a modern, integrated power system have been in place for years, but adequate funding has not been realized to date, even after pushing the urgency of the project due to Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact upon the entire power system. The estimated cost for the design, construction and installation of the integrated power system is \$125 million. Currently the Board and staff are actively petitioning state and federal officials for funding.