



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 1 CLS 2024

*EXTENSION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY - MISSISSIPPI RIVER
SALTWATER INTRUSION*

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the President of the Parish of Jefferson powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that the preparations of this parish will be adequate to respond to such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the Parish of Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 29:727(D)(1) empowers the President of the Parish of Jefferson to declare a local disaster or emergency, which shall continue until the President finds that the threat of danger has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than thirty days unless extended by the Parish President and no continuous state of emergency may continue beyond ninety days unless approved by the parish governing authority; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River serves as the source of water for Jefferson Parish Water Department's East Bank and West Bank water treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, extraordinarily low river levels and the resulting slower flow rates have allowed for saltwater to intrude upstream, which has reached the water intakes of neighboring Plaquemines Parish; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has constructed a saltwater barrier sill in effort to combat the saltwater intrusion and the resulting negative impacts to drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2023, Proclamation No. 10 CLS 2023 was issued, which declared a state of emergency within and throughout the Parish of Jefferson as a result of Mississippi River saltwater intrusion; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2023, Proclamation No. 11 CLS 2023 was issued, which extended the state of emergency for an additional thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, Proclamation No. 12 CLS 2023 was issued, which extended the state of emergency for an additional thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2023, the Jefferson Parish Council approved Resolution No. 143330, which approved a third thirty (30) day extension of the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, Proclamation No. 13 CLS 2023 was signed, which extended the state of emergency for an additional thirty (30) days to January 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2024, the Jefferson Parish Council adopted Resolution No. 143366, which approved a fourth thirty (30) day extension of the state of emergency; and



WHEREAS, it is necessary to again extend this state of emergency for an additional thirty (30) days due to the continuation of recovery activities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, CYNTHIA LEE SHENG, President of the Parish of Jefferson, by virtue of the authority vested by 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 continue to exist within and throughout the Parish of Jefferson as a result of Mississippi River saltwater intrusion, which has created an imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of this Parish.

SECTION 2: That the provisions of Division 2 and Division 3.1 of Article VII of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana are hereby suspended with respect to the procurement of labor, materials, supplies, equipment, services, and public works necessary to respond to this emergency.

SECTION 3: This proclamation shall be effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from January 17, 2024 to February 15, 2024, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially on this 12th day of January, 2024.



PRESIDENT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON

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