



LOUISIANA SENATE

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LEGISLATORS TO MEET WITH SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS WATER QUALITY ISSUES

District 23 State Senator Page Cortez (R-Lafayette), along with Senator Fred Mills (R-Parks) and Senator Ronnie Johns (R-Lake Charles), will meet with South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) officials today at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the on-going water issues facing South Louisiana citizens.

Senator Cortez says the primary purpose of the meeting is to share the concerns of their constituents regarding the lack of quality water and sewer systems provided by Total Environmental Solutions, Inc. (TESI), which is owned by SLECA, and to find a solution to the problems caused by this issue.

“The continued water quality issues in our area are unacceptable,” said Sen. Cortez, who authored Senate Bill 425 this session for tighter water standards.

Senate Bill 425, now Act 861 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session, aims to hold water utility companies such as TESI to higher standards and to protect residents from tainted tap water. The measure sets stricter guidelines regarding iron and manganese control and harsher penalties for violations.

“Our goal in meeting with SLECA is to present the information and the complaints we have received about TESI and to demonstrated the reasons behind the passage of Act 861. We hope to come to some arrangement to require TESI to provide higher quality drinking water and sewerage system to the people of South Louisiana,” said Sen. Cortez.

SLECA General Manger Joe Ticheli invited Senators Cortez, Mills and Johns to meet with the association’s board of directors to address their concerns.

“We are very appreciative to Mr. Ticheli for allowing us this opportunity to meet with the boards of SLECA and TESI. It is our hope that the outcome of the meeting will go a long way to provide relief to our constituents,” added Sen. Cortez.

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