

WHY OUR WATER TASTES SO GOOD

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HISTORY OF SOUTHERN HILLS AQUIFER

The drinking water that we in Baton Rouge have enjoyed all these years is considered to among the top in the world and our city has long advertised it as being the best and purest. Far from an idle boast, our claim to this premium water is a scientific fact based on city's location atop a unique geological formation called the Southern Hills Aquifer.

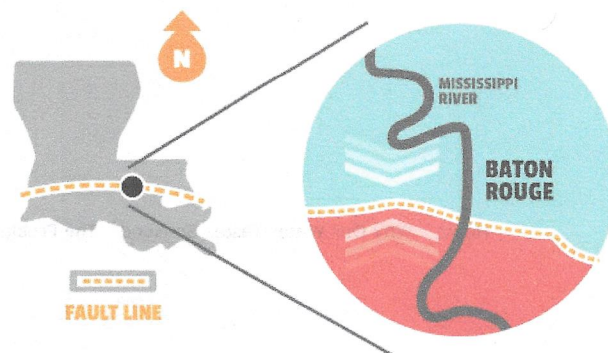
HOW IT WORKS

Below us is an aquifer, which is earth composed of many layers of sand/gravel mix separated by layers of compressed clay featuring varying thicknesses ranging from 100 to 300 feet. Amazingly, the deepest parts of these layers were formed over two to three million years ago. As rain falls and water slowly seeps through the earth it is naturally filtered of impurities as it moves down through the aquifer. We then pump it out and are rewarded with the clean, clear, delicious water we love.



THE FAULT

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This is a representative view of the water under EBR parish. The salt water is shown on the south (Red) side of the Figure. This salt water is held there by a geological fault (Dashed Line).

THE PROBLEM

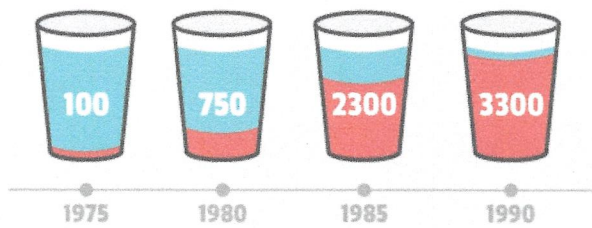
OUR FRESH DRINKING WATER IS IN DANGER

The aptly named Baton Rouge Fault is a geological feature, running east and west under our parish, which separates the fresh drinking water on its north side from the salt water on its south side. Years ago there was almost no water movement across the fault due to the low pumping levels on either side. In the last few decades, salt-water intrusion has accelerated due to excessive pumping on the north side, which creates hydraulic pressure and pulls salt water from the south. The increased pumping is the result of a combination of the supply well used by the public and industry. Together, these groups are creating a tremendous difference in the hydraulic head between the two sides of the fault causing a significant amount of salt water to enter our fresh water system.

THE PROBLEM



CHLORIDE CONCENTRATION (Well EB-807A)
IN MILLIGRAMS PER LITER



The problem is huge and if we do not take action soon, the salt intrusion will ruin our wonderful drinking water, and our children and grandchildren will not be able to enjoy the fresh water that we do now. Although groups and commissions have been studying this problem for years, there has been no action taken to stop or reduce the salt-water intrusion. In 2011, the Commissioner of Conservation was asked through a formal Metro-Council resolution to call for a hearing to study and take appropriate action to protect our fresh drinking water. As of this date, nothing has been done.

THE SOLUTION

THE SOLUTION

HERE IS A PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE SALT-WATER INTRUSION

Here is a proposed solution to the salt-water intrusion and how you can help save our fresh water supply before we all end up drinking water from the Mississippi River.

SOLUTION

Industry and public pumpages use roughly the same amount of fresh water. The first, primary action would be for industries along the river to switch from using people's drinking water for plant use and convert to treated Mississippi River water, ultimately relieving the tremendous pressure differential causing the encroachment of the salt water. Second, as local citizens, we should all look to conserve water wherever we can. It's easier than you think and every little bit helps. Third please **CONTACT YOUR STATE OFFICIALS** so that they know you are concerned and want something done about the problem.

In order for future generations and ourselves to enjoy some of the best drinking water in the world, it's time for citizens to take action.



STEPS TO SAVE OUR DRINKING WATER

- 1 Industries need to reduce the amount of drinking water for their processes and use filtered river water.
- 2 As citizens we need to conserve our drinking water for future generations and ourselves.
- 3 Contact your government officials to take action so that our children's water supply is safe.

