

Water Quality in Brazil effects Olympic Games of 2016

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Penn State Brandywine, November 9th 2015

Good morning everybody! I am your host and today we will be talking about how the breathtaking beaches of Brazil may not qualify to hold the 2016 summer Olympics. With its beautiful beaches, gorgeous mountains and breathtaking views, it is so easy to fall in love with Rio de Janeiro. Brazil is a well-known country and has a population of about 6.23 million people. With a city this large, the pollution must be very high. Residents who have lived in this area have seen the differences of the water over the years, especially the fishermen. They have realized that the pollution of the water is causing some people to get sick. About 77% of the water in Brazil is infected with potable water and sewage. The city has had to close down popular swimming and surfing areas due to the amount of infected and sewage filled waters. There have been findings of human waste; streaming through many canals that empty out into the bay. All of the water from residents showers, toilets and sinks all end up in this water. (Dwilson, S. D, 2015.) Although the athletes are at risk when they come to practice, the exposure to the water can differ depending on each persons' immune system. (Holmes, R. 2015) In this case, when Olympians from other countries come to Brazil to start practicing they get sick from the sewage filled waters. In early August Glenn Merry who is the CEO of the U.S rowing team stated that when they came to practice in the waters, about 11 of the athletes and 4 of the coaches came down with a sickness. Merry stated that they weren't going to blame the waters but were pretty positive it was because of the sewage filled lake (CNN, 2015.) Medical experts have stated that not all athletes have gotten sick while competing on the water but many experts say that the majority of the waterborne illnesses are viral not bacterial. (Phillips, D. 2015) Here today to help

us all understand a little bit more of what is exactly going on with the water in Brazil is the head of the water utility Jorge Briard.

ME: Jorge, its so nice to have you on today. How are you?

JORGE: I am doing well, how about yourself?

ME: I am dandy! Now I had a couple questions and concerns about the quality of the water in Brazil.

JORGE: Yes yes, how can I help to answer those questions

ME: I have heard that there are a lot of problems going on about the water in Brazil and how it was going to affect the 2016 Olympic games, can you tell us more about that?

JORGE: Yes, there are problems with the sewage filled Guanabara Bay and we have found that all of the sewage pipes from the residential homes lead out into the bay. We have water treatments but they are not cleaning the water as we expected. (Almaguer, M., & Fieldstadt, E. 2015)

ME: Do you think that the waters will be cleared to host the 2016 Olympics?

JORGE: I do believe so, with the amount of sewage in the waters now it will take a lot of cleanup and treatment to bring the water back to normal. But even if it is not perfect, the cleanliness of the waters will increase immensely.

ME: Interesting! Well thank you for answering the questions we all had about the water and its goal for the 2016 summer Olympic games. Thank you for joining us today, Jorge.

JORGE: It was my pleasure.

That was Jorge Briard, the head of Brazil's water utility company. He answered the questions we were all thinking about. So hopefully within the next year all of the pollution and sewage will be gone from the lakes and bays in Brazil. That way we are able to send over American athletes and not be worried about them getting sick. Thanks for joining us today and listening to High-tide H2O.

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