



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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www.swbno.org

May 27, 2022

Dear Mayor Cantrell, Honorable Members of the New Orleans City Council, and Orleans Parish Delegation:

This report is delivered in accordance which Revised Statute 33:4091, Section F, which states: *“In addition to the other requirements of this Section, the board shall send a report, by electronic mail, to the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation and the members of the governing authority of Orleans Parish detailing the pumping and electrical power of its facilities and the available manpower no later than twenty-four hours prior to a hurricane entering the Gulf of Mexico as determined by the National Weather Service and no later than forty eight hours after a flood watch or warning or thunderstorm watch or warning is issued by the National Weather Service for any area of Orleans Parish.”*

On Wednesday, May 25 and Thursday, May 26, 2022, the National Weather Service issued a series of flood advisories and warnings associated with a storm system that passed through Orleans Parish over the course of about 24 hours (approximately 11:30 a.m. Wednesday through 9:30 a.m. Thursday). The status of SWBNO’s pumping and power equipment and facilities before and after the event are detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

Rainfall from this event totaled between 1.5 and 2.5” in most areas of the city, with the highest amount reaching just over 3” in the Upper Ninth Ward. SWBNO received reports of significant pooling in the Gentilly and Paris Avenue area during the storm cell that moved through the area on Wednesday around noon. Otherwise, short bursts of high-intensity rainfall caused temporary street flooding that receded as water reached the drainage system. As detailed below, all available pumping and power equipment performed as expected.

PUMPING AND POWER

Below is the status of SWBNO's pumping and power equipment at the outset of the event.

Drainage Pumps:

A total of 95 of 99 drainage pumps were available at the outset of the event.

DPS 6: I pump out of service, awaiting shaft replacement; return to service Q1 2023

H pump out of service, under investigation; anticipated return in June

DPS 11: E pump out of service due to an oil leak; contractor engaged for repairs

DPS 13: No. 4 pump designated emergency use only; in-depth inspection underway

The remaining drainage assets performed as expected during the course of the event, with no significant issues.

Underpass Stations:

All 27 underpass station pumps (UPS) were available and ready for use during the event. There were no reported issues with the underpass pumps.

Power:

Turbines 4, 5, and the frequency converters were utilized for this event and performed well. Turbine 6 and four out of five EMDs were all available for use, but were not needed.

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	0
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	18
T5**	25 Hz	20 MW	17.5
Carrollton Frequency Changers 1&2	Converts 60 to 25Hz	8.5 MW	8.5
Station D Frequency Changers 3&4	Converts 60 to 25Hz	12 MW	12
West Bank Power Complex (Algiers Water Treatment Plant)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	2.5 MW	2.5
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total)	10

		2.5 MW (each)	
T6 (via Plant Frequency Changer)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	3.75
		Total 25 Hz:	72.25 MW
T6	60 Hz	22 MW	22 MW

*T3 has been decommissioned as of May 2021 and has been removed from the table.

** T5 was tested up to 17.5MW during the pre-start and commissioning stage.

STAFFING

Of New Orleans' 24 drainage pumping stations, some are staffed, some run remotely, and some are staffed as circumstances dictate. For this event, all stations were staffed appropriately.