



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
504.529.2837 OR 52.WATER
www.swbno.org

August 26, 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.”*

Over the course of the week from August 18 through August 24, the National Weather Service issued three areal flood advisories associated with storms that moved through Orleans Parish.

The status of SWBNO’s pumping and power equipment and facilities was consistent for each of these events and is detailed below. There were no significant power or pumping issues that impacted operations during the course of any of these rain events.

STORM IMPACTS

As SWBNO’s Executive Director shared at the agency’s August Board meeting, New Orleans has received 21” of rain in the past three months, including 26 days of rain in the month of July alone. So far this month, there have been nine days in which the rainfall amounts generated flood advisories or warnings from the National Weather Service.

Despite the frequent and intense rainfall, SWBNO's pumping and power equipment has performed consistently, with no significant issues that have impacted operations or resulted in the removal of major equipment from service. Strong storms do continue to cause temporary pooling and street flooding in some areas as the rainwater makes its way into the drainage system (e.g., around the intersection of Downman and Chef Menteur Highway on August 19), but SWBNO has not received reports of long-term or damaging street flooding associated with the advisories or warnings in the past week.

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 each event:

- DPS 6: 1 pump out of service, awaiting shaft replacement; return to service Q1 2023**
- DPS 11: E pump repaired and undergoing testing; RTS next week**
- DPS 13: No. 4 pump designated emergency use only; in-depth inspection underway**
- DPS 16: No. 2 pump out of service; investigation underway, RTS TBD**

The remaining drainage assets performed as expected during these events, with no significant issues reported.

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 6 were utilized during rain events over the past week and performed well. Frequency changers and three out of five EMDs were also available for use. Frequency changer #3 at Station D remains offline for some additional repairs after scheduled cleaning and maintenance; return to service is scheduled by the end of the month. EMD #1 is offline due to computer programming issues and is undergoing testing. EMD #5 is temporarily offline for scheduled VFD fan

upgrades. The remainder of the power assets were utilized as needed and performed as expected during the rainfall event.

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
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	6 (#3 offline for scheduled maintenance)
West Bank Power Complex (Algiers Water Treatment Plant)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	2.5 MW	2.5
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	7.5
T6 (via Plant Frequency Changer)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	3.75
		Total 25 Hz:	60 MW
T6	60 Hz	22 MW	22 MW

*T3 has been decommissioned as of May 2021, and T1 has been decommissioned as of June 2022. Both units have been removed from this 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.