



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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March 8, 2024

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.”*

In the afternoon of Monday March 4, 2024 and early morning hours of Tuesday March 5, 2024 a strong thunderstorm system moved through Orleans Parish and Southeastern Louisiana. The initial predictions from the National Weather Service indicated that the storm would bring 3 to 6” of rain in the area, with the potential for strong winds and hail. The status of SWBNO’s pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

Orleans Parish experienced a prolonged storm that came three waves – between 12pm and 2pm on Monday, between 4pm and 7pm on Monday, and between 11pm on Monday to 4am on Tuesday.

The maximum recorded rainfall was at Central Control, with 4.39 total inches recorded between 11am Monday and 1pm on Tuesday, with an average of 2.7 inches recorded across the City. The maximum hourly rainfall recorded was at DPS 5, with

1.61 inches recorded on Monday evening. The maximum rainfall intensity was 5.64 in/hr, recorded at DPS 5; intensities exceed 5 in/hr were also recorded at DPS 1 and DPS 2, with an average of 2 in/hr recorded at the other locations.

Although no incidents of flooding were reported by the Real Time Crime Camera (RTCC) center, localized street flooding was reported by citizens and in the news.

*Note that rainfall data was not available for DPS 15, 17, and 19.

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 93 of 99 drainage pumps were reported in service at the outset of the event.

DPS 3: 25-hz pump out of service due to replacement of bearing housing unit. RTS April 2024.

DPS 10: No. 1 pump (60-hz) out of service. Vendor selected to refurbish pump. RTS August 2024.

DPS 13: No. 4 pump (diesel pump) is for emergency use only. Additional drainage funding is needed to move forward with repairs.

DPS 15: No. 1 pump gearbox repairs are in progress. RTS August 2024.

DPS 17: Pumps A & D (25-hz) out of service due to the issues with electric motor. RTS TBD, pending funding availability.

No major pump-related issues (mechanical or electrical) were encountered during the rain event.

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 5 (25-hz), and 6 (60-hz), along with three frequency changers on the Eastbank, and one on the Westbank, as well as three EMDs were also available at the outset of this event. Due to the limited amount of redundancy in 25-hz power,

plans were made in advance of the rain event to utilize frequency changers for the stations which serve primarily 25-hz pumps.

Between 5pm and 6pm on Monday March 4, two electrical feeders carrying power from Central Control to the drainage pumping stations experienced electrical issues, impacting pumps at DPS 1 and DPS 2. The feeder issues were resolved and the impacted pumps resumed pumping operation within 10 minutes in both instances.

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	0 (placed out of service on February 3, 2024)
T5**	25 Hz	20 MW	16 MW (revised capacity while Turbine 4 is out of service)
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 MW (FC #4 out of service)
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 (repairs for EMD #1 and #2 in progress)
Plant Frequency Changer via T6	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	0 MW (RTS to be determined)
		Total 25 Hz:	40.5 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.

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.