The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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www.swbno.org

May 15, 2024

Dear Mayor Cantrell, Honorable Members of the New Orleans City Council, and Orleans Parish Legislative 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.*"

Throughout the evening of May 13, 2024, and early morning hours of May 14, 2024, a strong thunderstorm system moved through Orleans Parish and Southeastern Louisiana. The predictions from the National Weather Service indicated that the storm would bring high intensity rain to the area, with the potential for strong winds, hail, and tornadic activity. The status of SWBNO's pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

This storm resulted in the metro area experiencing a series of high intensity, short duration rain and thunderstorm event that impacted the entire Metro area.

The majority of the rainfall was accumulated during the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight, with over 1 inch in an hour recorded at multiple stations in this timeframe. A total accumulation average of 1.5 inches was recorded at SWBNO locations

between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, the two highest totals recorded at Central Control (1.94 inches) and at Station A (1.65 inches).

A maximum rainfall intensity of 4.56 inches/hour was recorded at DPS 12, with an average of 3.13 inches/hour across the other stations.

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

No reports of flooding incidents were reported by the Real Time Crime Camera Center (RTCC).

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 89 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 May 2024.**

DPS 6: **I pump is out of service while inspection of pump is in progress to determine the extent of any repairs needed. RTS TBD.**

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 14: **No. 3 and No. 4 pumps out of service due to mechanical issues. RTS anticipated end of May, pending inspection results.**
Note that drainage from this area can also be addressed by DPS 10, DPS 16, and Dwyer DPS via the Morrison Canal.

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.**

DPS 18: **Pump No. 1 out of service as of May 2024. RTS pending further mechanical inspection.**
A portable pump was installed at this location as a temporary measure.

No pump-related issues were encountered during this event.

Underpass Stations:

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

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. Additionally, Turbine 6 was brought online in advance to provide 60-hz power to the Carrollton Frequency Changer in anticipating of high winds. Two EMDs were used during the event, with no issues encountered.

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)

Unit*	**Frequency**	**Capacity in MW**	**Available**
		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.