The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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May 20, 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 late evening of May 16, 2024, and early morning hours of May 18, 2024, a series of strong thunderstorms 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

In the late evening on May 16 and early morning hours of May 17, the New Orleans area experienced a severe thunderstorm with high winds and strong potential for tornadic activity. Power outages were reported across multiple areas of the City and Metro area.

The maximum recorded accumulation was 2 inches at DPS 14 in New Orleans East – the majority of which occurred between 11pm and 1am. The average accumulation

in the City was 0.7 inches. Rainfall intensities during this short time period ranged from 2.5 to 3.8 inches/hr. No reports of street flooding were recorded by the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) for this event.

In the early morning hours of May 18, a less severe weather system moved through the City. An average rainfall of 0.26 inches was recorded between 1am and 10am, with a maximum recorded accumulation of 0.6 inches at Central Control during this time period. No reports of flooding incidents were reported by the Real Time Crime Camera Center (RTCC) for this event.

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 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 these events.

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 to provide 60-hz power to the Carrollton Frequency Changer in anticipation of high winds.

During the severe wind event on May 16, Entergy power was lost at DPS Dwyer, DPS 16, and DPS 11. The backup generators at DPS 16 and DPS 11 were used for pumping, with no issues.

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)	7.5

Unit*	**Frequency**	**Capacity in MW**	**Available**
		2.5 MW (each)	(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.