



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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

November 22, 2024

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

This report is delivered in accordance with 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.”*

A Flood Watch was issued for Orleans Parish beginning on November 18 at 6pm, extending through November 19 at 12pm. A weather pattern capable of producing heavy rain, associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm Sarah, moved through the area during this time. The status of SWBNO’s pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

The New Orleans area began experiencing rainfall in the evening of November 18. A summary of rainfall data from 8pm on 11/18 through 8am (when the rainfall passed) on 11/19 is below.

- The average recorded total rainfall at SWBNO stations was 2 inches.
 - DPS-19 in the Upper 9th experienced the greatest total rainfall amount, at 2.70 inches.
- The average recorded maximum rainfall accumulation in an hour was 0.75 inches.
 - DPS-14 in New Orleans East experienced the most rainfall in a single hour, at 1.21 inches of rain between 6am and 7am.

- Central Control at the Carrollton Water Plant (CWP) recorded 1.07 inches of rain during the same hour.
- The average recorded rainfall intensity was 3.4 inches/hour.
 - Central Control recorded the greatest Maximum Rainfall Intensity, at 5.64 inches/hour, around 6:45am
 - Intensities exceeding 4 inches/hour were recorded at DPS-05, DPS-14, and DPS-19

On November 19, the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) reported several locations in the New Orleans East Area with impassable intersections around 7am, with conditions cleared by 9:30am.

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 91 of 97 drainage pumps were reported in service at the outset of the event.

- DPS 10:** **No. 1 pump (60-hz) out of service. Vendor selected to refurbish pump. Pump installation is in progress, with RTS expected in November 2024.**
3 additional pumps were available at this station
- DPS 13:** **No. 4 pump (diesel pump) is for emergency use only. Additional drainage funding is needed to move forward with repairs.**
5 additional pumps were available at this station
- DPS 14:** **No. 3 and No. 4 pumps out of service due to mechanical issues. #3 repairs will be completed via contract, with RTS anticipated in Q1 2025. #4 is being repaired in-house, with RTS anticipated by end of 2024.**
2 additional pumps were available at this station
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 Q2 2025.**
2 additional pumps were available at this station
- DPS 18:** **Pump No. 1 out of service as of May 2024. RTS pending further mechanical inspection and repairs.**
1 additional pump was available at this station, and a portable pump was installed at this location as a temporary measure.

Underpass Stations:

At UPS Old Carrollton, which services the Carrollton Ave/Interstate I-10 underpass, one of three pumps at that location are out of service. A temporary pump is deployed at this location.

No issues reported with the remaining underpass pumps or stations during these rain events.

Power:

Turbine 4, Turbines 5 (25-hz), and 6 (60-hz), along with four frequency changers on the Eastbank, and one on the Westbank, as well as five EMDs were also available at the outset of this event.

A combination of Frequency Changers, Turbine 4, and Turbine 5 were used for this event, with no major issues encountered.

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	18.5 MW
T5**	25 Hz	20 MW	16 (revised capacity)
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) 2.5 MW (each)	12.5
Plant Frequency Changer via T6	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	0 MW (RTS to be determined)
		Total 25 Hz:	70.0 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.