The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET

504.529.2837 OR 52.WATER

www.swbno.org

February 21, 2025

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 series of Flash Flood advisories and warning were issued for Orleans Parish on February 19, 2025 from around 12:30am to 4am, due to a series of rainstorms that moved through the area that evening. The status of SWBNO's pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

The rain associated with this system began around 7pm on February 18, 2025 and continued until around 5am on February 19th. The average recorded rainfall was 2.35 inches, with the highest recorded rainfall amount of 3.11 inches at DPS 7 in City Park. The average rain rate was 2 inches per hour, with the highest recorded rainfall rate of 2.64 inches per hour observed at both DPS 12 in Lakeview and DPS 16 in New Orleans East – Lakefront. The all-clear for this event was issued by the National Weather Service at 5:16 am on February 19, 2025.

No reports of flooding or concern were noted by the Real Time Crime 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 93 drainage pumps were reported in service at the outset of the event.

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 pump out of service due to mechanical issues. #3 repairs will be completed via contract, with RTS anticipated in Q1 2025.**
3 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 is 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:

Prior to the event, 70 MW of 25-hz power was available via Turbines 4 and 5, four frequency changers on the Eastbank, one frequency changer on the Westbank, and five EMDs. Turbine 6 was also available.

A combination of Frequency Changers, EMDs, and Turbine 5 were used for this event. During the storm, it was determined that the 25-hz aerial feeder that carries power from Frequency Changer #4 (at Station D) could not be used due to an electrical fault. This impacted one pump each at DPS 3, 4, and 7; however, the other pumps available at DPS 3 and 7 were sufficient to address the pumping needs at those stations. The electrical issue with the feeder was corrected the following day.

At DPS 4, canal levels were elevated for approximately 2.5 hours due to a secondary operational issue with the pumps at the station, which has since been corrected.

Unit*	**Frequency**	**Capacity in MW**	**Available**
T4	25 Hz	20 MW (18.5 MW revised capacity)	18.5 MW
T5	25 Hz	20 MW (16 MW revised capacity)	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 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.