



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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www.swbno.org

June 2, 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 warnings were issued for the New Orleans area for the afternoon and early evening of May 28, and on May 29, due to a complex of storm systems that moved through the area on those days. The status of SWBNO's pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

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STORM IMPACTS

May 28, 2025

Severe thunderstorms impacted the area beginning around 12 PM on May 28, and lasting until around 2 AM on May 29. During that time, several stations across the city recorded rainfall of 1 inch or more. The average rainfall collected was 1.12 inches. The highest recorded total rainfall collection amount was 3.04 inches, observed at DPS 4 in Gentilly. Rain intensity values averaged at 2.48 inches per

hour, with the highest intensity readings observed at DPS 7 in City Park at 5.04 inches per hour.

May 29, 2025

Two bands of storms moved across the New Orleans metro area on May 29, 2025 bringing intermittent bouts of heavy rain, and moving out of the area to the east after 3:00 PM. The average recorded rainfall amount observed at stations across the city was 2.42 inches, with DPS 1 in Broadmoor registering the largest collection amount at 3.78 inches. Eight stations recorded more than 3 inches of rain over the course of the day. Rainfall intensity across the city averaged at 3.73 inches per hour, with DPS 7 in City Park registering the highest value at 6.60 inches per hour. Information from DPS 16 and from Station A was not included due to mechanical errors in the collection devices

Pooling was observed and reported by the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) at three locations across the city on May 29. All areas were resolved by early afternoon.

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 88 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 are 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 Q2 2025.**
3 additional pumps are 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 Q3 2025.**
2 additional pumps are available at this station
- DPS 18:** **Pump No. 1 out of service as of May 2024. A contractor has been engaged to make the repair, with RTS anticipated in summer 2025.**
1 additional pump is available at this station.

DPS 20: **No. 2 pump is used for emergency use only, due to mechanical issue identified. An assessment of repairs needed is underway.**

1 additional pump is available at this station

No major pump-related issues were encountered during the event.

For reference, maps showing the tributaries (i.e. drainage areas) for each pumping station are included on the Pumping and Power Dashboard

(<https://www.swbno.org/Projects/PumpingandPower>), which are included as reference maps at the end of this report.

Underpass Stations:

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

Higher-than-normal water levels were observed at the Franklin, Hospital, Old Carrollton, and St. Bernard underpass stations.

Power:

A combination of Frequency Changers, Turbine 5, and EMDs were used for this event, with no major pumping or power issues encountered during the event.

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T4	25 Hz	20 MW (18.5 MW revised capacity)	18.5
T5	25 Hz	20 MW (16 MW revised capacity)	16
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	0 (out of service)

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
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:	67.5 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.

DRAINAGE AREA REFERENCE MAPS

For a complete map, visit <https://www.swbno.org/Projects/PumpingandPower>





