



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
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www.swbno.org

March 20, 2026

Dear Mayor Moreno, 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 severe thunderstorm warning was issued for the New Orleans area on March 16th, 2026. Scattered thunderstorms capable of producing heavy rain moved through the area throughout the early morning hours. The status of SWBNO’s pumping and power equipment before and during the events is detailed below.

STORM IMPACTS

Thunderstorms began in the early morning hours in the New Orleans metro area and continued for about an hour. The highest recorded accumulation was 1.12 inches at Central Control at the Carrollton Water Plant. The average accumulation across affected stations was 0.58 inches. The highest rainfall intensity was 5.88 inches/hour at Central Control. The average rainfall intensity across the network was 3.16 inches/hour.

One report of localized flooding was noted by the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), at 9648 Old Gentilly Road.

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 85 of 93 drainage pumps were reported in service at the outset of the event.

DPS 6: F pump is out of service due to a motor bearing repair needed. RTS anticipated in the first quarter of 2026.

11 additional pumps are available at this station

DPS 7: A pump was taken out of service on the afternoon of March 15, 2026 due to a mechanical issue. It was returned to service on March 17, 2026.

2 additional pumps are 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.

No. 6 pump is on standby for emergency use only as of July 2025. An investigation of the repairs needed is underway.

4 additional pumps are available at this station

DPS 14: No. 1 and No. 3 pumps are out of service due to electrical issues. Repair work is underway by SWBNO crews, with RTS anticipated in first quarter of 2026.

2 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 18: Pump No. 2 out of service as of December 2025. A contractor recently completed work on the other pump at this station, and a new contract will be needed to repair Pump #2. RTS is to be determined, based on funding.

1 additional pump is available at this station and a temporary pump has been installed

DPS Dwyer: Pump 2 is out of service as of February 23, 2026 for repairs by SWBNO staff. Return to service estimated by end of March 2026.

There are two other pumps in service at this location.

Drainage from this area can also be addressed via DPS 10, DPS 16, and DPS 14 via the Morrison Canal.

No major pump 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.

No issues with the underpass stations were reported during this event.

Power:

A combination of rotary frequency changers and Static Frequency Changer #1 were used for the event. No power issues were experienced during the event.

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
Static Frequency Changer #1	25 Hz	22 MW	22
Static Frequency Changer #3	25 Hz	22 MW	22
T4	25 Hz	20 MW (18.5 MW revised capacity)	18.5*
T5	25 Hz	20 MW (17.5 MW revised capacity)	17.5
Carrollton Frequency Changers 1&2	Converts 60 to 25Hz	8.5 MW	2.5 (FC#1 out of service as of 2/13/2026)
Station D Frequency Changers 3&4	Converts 60 to 25Hz	12 MW	6 (FC#4 out of service)
West Bank Power Complex (Algiers Water Treatment Plant)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	2.5 MW	0 (out of service)
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	12.5

Unit*	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
Plant Frequency Changer via T6	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	0 MW (RTS to be determined)
		Total 25 Hz:	82.5 MW
T6	60 Hz	22 MW	

*Note that Turbine 4's power capacity is not included in the calculation for the total power available. Due to the system electrical configuration, it could only be used if another asset is not available (i.e. Turbine 4 could not be used at the same time as SFC 1, SFC3, and Turbine 5 together).

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>





