



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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

February 6, 2020

Dear Mayor Cantrell, Honorable Members of the New Orleans City Council, and Orleans Parish 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.”*

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch at approximately 3:40 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. This report covers the status of New Orleans’ drainage system and Sewerage and Water Board’s (SWBNO) operations during this event.

From approximately 4 a.m. to 9 a.m., rain totals varied around New Orleans. No total was higher than 2.4 inches for that time period.

PUMPS AND POWER

While the amount of rain was not enough to warrant the full engagement of our drainage equipment, SWBNO had all 99 of its drainage pumps available for use throughout this event.

Turbine Generator 5 (T5) remains out of service after an explosion that occurred in December. This incident reduced the level of redundant 25 Hz power available to the drainage system by 20 megawatts (MW). Nonetheless, the Feb. 6 rain event did not require the full use of the drainage system, and SWBNO could have produced enough power to run the entire system had that been necessary.

UNIT	FREQUENCY	CAPACITY MEGAWATTS (MW)	IN	AVAILABLE MW
Turbine 1	25 Hz	~6 MW		6
Turbine 3	25 Hz	~7 MW*		7
Turbine 4	25 Hz	20 MW		20
Turbine 5	25 Hz	20 MW**		0
Turbine 6	60 Hz	15 MW***		15
Carrollton Changer (1&2)	Freq. Converts 60 to 25 Hz	8.5 MW		8.5
Station D Changer (3&4)	Freq. Converts 60 to 25 Hz	12 MW		12
Five EMDS	25 Hz	12.5 MW		12.5
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25 Hz	86 MW		66 MW
TOTAL AVAILABLE	60 Hz	15 MW		15 MW

MANPOWER

Of New Orleans' 24 drainage pumping stations, some are staffed, some run remotely and some are staffed as circumstances dictate. Staffing levels were normal and effective during this rain event.