



# **The Sewerage & Water Board**

## **OF NEW ORLEANS**

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June 9, 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 series of flood warnings in connection with Tropical Storm Cristobal over a 24-hour period from Saturday, June 6 through Monday, June 8. The following is a preliminary report detailing the manpower, pumping and electrical power of the Sewerage and Water Board’s (SWBNO) facilities throughout the event.

Generally, the rain amounts generated by TS Cristobal were less than forecast. The highest amounts of rain were recorded at Drainage Pumping Station 2, with a one-day total of 2.99 inches. On average, the city saw between 1-2 inches each day. More severe flooding resulted from storm surge and impacted areas outside of the levee and drainage systems, such as Venetian Isles.

Our drainage system performed as expected and handled the rainfall over all three days with no major operational issues.

## PUMPING

All 99 of our 99 drainage pumps were available for the duration of the event. Three of our 21 smaller dry-weather pumps (also known as constant duty pumps) were offline for scheduled repairs at the outset of the event, which did not affect operations during the storm.

## POWER

The drainage system requires about 52 MW of power to run the greatest combination of its drainage pumps. At the outset of the event, we had 62.5 MW of 25Hz power available, as set forth in the table below:

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	6
T3	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	6
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	20
<b>T5</b>	<b>25 Hz</b>	<b>20 MW</b>	<b>0</b>
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
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	10
		Total 25 Hz:	<b>62.5 MW</b>
T6	60 Hz	15 MW	15 (60 Hz)

Turbine 5 (T5) has been unavailable since December, when it was damaged in an explosion. To offset the 20MW reduction in redundancy, we moved our five Electro-Motive Diesel generators (EMDs) from backup to primary power sources. As part of our preparations, we tested each of the EMDs; one experienced issues that could not be addressed prior to the storm and was taken offline. We expect that unit to be repaired and back in service this week.

The available turbines, four operational EMDs, frequency changers, and Entergy power were sufficient to run the system at the needed capacity. On Monday, June

8, a second EMD was taken out of service for repairs. The majority of rain had passed by that time and operations were not materially impacted.

All other power assets performed appropriately for the duration of the event.

## **MANPOWER**

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, including normally unmanned stations, were staffed appropriately and additional staff was on call in case of emergency.