



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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

April 12, 2021

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.”*

At 4:58 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Orleans Parish, followed by a flash flood warning issued at 5:16 a.m. 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.

RAINFALL

Rainfall totals for this event reached approximately 2 inches in most areas of the city, with close to 2.5 inches falling in New Orleans East. The rainfall intensity ranged from 1.5 inches per hour to over 6 inches per hour in some locations at the height of the event. The high intensity of rainfall over a short period of time caused some temporary street and underpass flooding around the metro area, although it was not widespread.

PUMPING AND POWER

Below is the status of SWBNO's pumping and power equipment at the outset of the rain event.

Drainage Pumps:

As with the rain event on April 8, 97 of 99 drainage pumps were available. The two pumps out of service are undergoing electrical repairs and should return to service in the near future. Two smaller constant duty pumps, typically used during dry weather, were offline for repairs.

DPS 7: #1 Constant Duty Pump out of service for motor repairs

DPS 5: #1 Constant Duty Pump out of service for pump repairs

DPS 14: #4 Pump out of service for gear box repairs

DPS 6: 1 Pump out of service pending electrical repairs

The pumping system operated as anticipated, with no major pump issues to report.

Underpass Stations:

All 27 underpass station pumps (UPS) were available and ready for use during the event.

Power:

For this event, Turbine 6, all 5 EMDs, and all frequency changers were available for use. Turbine 1 was offline for planned maintenance repairs critical for its continued use until Turbines 4 and 5 are back online. It is scheduled to return to service this afternoon.

Turbine 4 is still on schedule to return to service the first week of May. Turbine 5 is expected to be back online by early June. The addition of those turbines prior to hurricane season will add significant redundancy to the system.

The EMDs and all frequency changers were tested and available at the start of the event. During the event, the EMDs performed as expected and generated

approximately 11MW of power at the height of the storm. Turbine 6 and all frequency changers remained online and performed as expected for the duration of the event.

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	0
T3	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	0
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	0
T5	25 Hz	20 MW	0
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 MW	2
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	12.5
		Total 25 Hz:	35 MW
T6	60 Hz	15 MW	15 (60 Hz)

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, and a consulting diesel mechanic was onsite to help monitor and troubleshoot EMD performance for the duration of the storm.