



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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www.swbno.org

February 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.”*

On Thursday, February 11, the National Weather Service issued a flood advisory for Orleans Parish at 12:04 p.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 more than 2” in many areas of the city over the course of approximately two hours. While the intensity of rainfall over a relatively short period of time caused localized street and underpass flooding, the drainage system kept pace with the demand in many areas. As always, we are working with the Department of Public Works to identify specific areas where small pipe or catch basin cleaning may help alleviate future localized flooding or pooling issues.

PUMPING AND POWER

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

Drainage Pumps:

In sum, 97 of 99 drainage pumps were available. One pump was out of service for repairs at Drainage Pumping Station (DPS) 14. Two 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 Drainage Pump out of service for gear box repairs

DPS Grant: #6 Drainage Pump out of service pending electrical repairs

Underpass Stations:

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

Power:

For this event, three of five turbines were not available for use. Turbine 5 is undergoing repairs for damage resulting from last December's explosion and is expected to return to service in mid-2021. Turbine 4 is undergoing repairs due to a mechanical issue that arose during routine use earlier this month. It is expected to be back online in December. Turbine 3 is out of service indefinitely, due to age-related issues exacerbated by condenser damage suffered during Hurricane Zeta.

This will continue to be the status of power until early May, when Turbine 4 is expected to come back online. 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.

All five EMDs and all frequency changers were tested, available, and prepped for use prior to the start of the event. During the event, the EMDs performed well and

provided close to 9MW of power. Turbines 1 and 6 also remained online and performed as expected for the duration of the event.

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	6
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
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	12.5
		Total 25 Hz:	38 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 with additional staff on site to monitor EMD performance.