



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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July 6, 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 between Saturday, July 3 and Monday, July 5, the National Weather Service issued several flash flood warning and advisories for Orleans Parish in response to heavy rainfall across the region. The following is a preliminary report detailing the manpower, pumping and electrical power of the Sewerage and Water Board’s (SWBNO) facilities during the event.

RAINFALL

Recorded rainfall over the course of the two days averaged around 1” across the city, with highest rainfall reaching over between 3 inches in the Treme, Mid-City, and Lakeview areas. The rainfall intensity reached 5-6” per hour at the height of the rain event. There were reports of localized street flooding in the CBD and French Quarter on Saturday during the initial stages of the rain events.

PUMPING AND POWER

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

Drainage Pumps:

A total of 96 of 99 drainage pumps were available at the outset of the event.

- DPS 14: #4 Pump out of service for gear box repairs in the near term**
- DPS 6: I Pump out of service pending pump bearing repairs**
- DPS 15: #1 Pump offline due to repairs on the discharge piping located outside of the station**

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. There were no reported issues with the underpass pumps; nevertheless, there was street flooding that prevented normal access to the Carrollton underpass due to rain intensity for a brief period of time.

Power:

For this event, Turbine 1, Turbine 6, all 5 EMDs, and all frequency changers were available for use. Turbine 1, all five EMDs, and frequency changers were utilized as needed and performed as expected for the duration of the event. Use of Turbine 6 was not required.

Turbine 4 returned to service Saturday evening following repairs that began at the end of June, and was utilized for remainder of the event. During that time, the EMDs were not utilized.

Turbine 5 is expected to be back online by mid July. Pre-start commission and startup activities have already commenced. The addition of this turbine during hurricane season will add significant redundancy to the system.

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	6
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	18
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	2.5 MW	2.5
Five EMDs	25Hz	12.5 MW (total) 2.5 MW (each)	12.5
T6 (via Plant Frequency Changer)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	3.75
		Total 25 Hz:	63.25 MW
T6	60 Hz	15 MW	15 (60 Hz)

*T3 has been decommissioned as of May 2021 and has been removed from the table.

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 support personnel were onsite to help monitor and troubleshoot the various facilities as needed.