



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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April 9, 2019

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

A thunderstorm watch was issued by the National Weather Service at approximately 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 7.

The following is a report detailing the manpower and the pumping and electrical power of the Sewerage and Water Board’s (SWBNO) facilities at the time of that watch. Thankfully, the predicted rain event for New Orleans did not transpire to the extent predicted and a heightened operational response was not required.

PUMPING

New Orleans’ drainage system had 115 out of its 120 drainage pumps available. Five (5) pumps were out of service for maintenance or refurbishment.

Station	Location	Total Pumps	Designed Capacity (cfs)	Total Pumps Out	Station Operational Capacity
1	Broadmoor	11	6,825	1	99%
6	17 th Street Canal	15	9,580	2	98%
4	Gentilly	6	3,720	1	73%
20	N.O. East	2	500	1	50%

POWER

UNIT	FREQUENCY	CAPACITY IN MEGAWATTS (MW)	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**	12
Turbine 6	60 Hz	15 MW***	15
Carrollton Freq. Changer (1&2)	Converts 60 to 25 Hz	8.5 MW	8.5
Station D Freq. Changer (3&4)	Converts 60 to 25 Hz	12 MW	12
Five EMDS	25 Hz	12.5 MW	12.5
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25 Hz	86 MW	74 MW
TOTAL AVAILABLE	60 Hz	15 MW	15 MW

*Turbines 1 and 3 are the oldest steam-powered generators and do not operate at their original capacities.

** Turbine 5 underwent repairs last month and recently underwent a full-scale test of its capabilities. It was able to produce 12 MW of 25 Hz power. SWBNO is working with General Electric to determine what additional adjustments to make to restore its energy production to full capacity.

** Turbine 6 generates 60 Hz electricity, which can be converted to 3.75 MW of 25 Hz electricity through a frequency changer.

MANPOWER

Of New Orleans' 24 drainage pumping stations, some are staffed, some run remotely and some are staffed as circumstances dictate. In anticipation of Sunday's rain event, SWBNO planned to deploy two 8-hour shifts, starting at 3 p.m. Each shift would have consisted of 11 operators – plus two additional workers because of the forecasted severity of the event – on duty at stations; and 11 operators on call and/or monitoring unmanned pump stations and pumps at underpasses.

The actual response was downgraded to normal operations because of the diminishment of the weather threat throughout the course of the day.