



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

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October 4, 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 Wednesday, September 29 and Sunday, October 3, the National Weather Service issued flood advisories associated with thunderstorms in and around Orleans Parish. The Sewerage & Water Board’s manpower, pumping and electrical power was unchanged for the two events and is detailed below.

RAINFALL

Total rainfall during the September 29 event was not significant, but some areas of the city experienced very high rainfall intensity. In Lakeview, intensity reached 5” an hour for a period of between 20-30 minutes, which caused areas of pooling. The standing water receded as expected as stormwater made its way into the system. Rainfall on October 3 was less than 2” around the city and did not result in significant pooling.

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 93 of 99 drainage pumps were available at the outset of the event.

DPS 14: #4 Pump out of service for gear box repairs. Vendor in possession of gear box, performing repairs

DPS 6: C, F and I pumps out of service; C pump repairs underway

DPS 12: D Pump out of service; emergency repairs underway

DPS 13: #5 Diesel Pump out of service; repairs underway

On Wednesday, September 15, 25 Hz pumps C and F at Drainage Pumping Station 6 went offline due to a motor issue. The contractor started emergency repairs on C Pump on Thursday, September 16, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in October. F Pump will start after C Pump is completed and is available for emergency use in the meantime. Ten of the thirteen major pumps at Drainage Pumping Station 6 are still available for use (67% capacity).

The remaining drainage assets performed as expected during the course of the event, with no significant issues.

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.

Power:

During the September 29 advisory, Turbine 4 was temporarily offline for oil change and preventative maintenance. The remaining assets provided enough power to address the rainfall. For the October 3 advisory, Turbines 4, 5, and 6, four out of five EMDs, and all frequency changers were available. The remainder of the power assets were utilized as needed and performed as expected during the rainfall.

EMD #1 currently is offline while being retrofitted with a new control system and smart fan, which will reduce the noise generated by the machine while in use.

Unit	Frequency	Capacity in MW	Available
T1	25 Hz	Approx. 6 MW	0
T4	25 Hz	20 MW	18
T5**	25 Hz	20 MW	17.5
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)	10
T6 (via Plant Frequency Changer)	Converts 60 to 25Hz	3.75 MW	3.75
		Total 25 Hz:	72.25 MW
T6	60 Hz	15 MW	15 (60 Hz)

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

** T5 was tested up to 17.5MW during the pre-start and commissioning stage.

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.