



The Sewerage & Water Board

OF NEW ORLEANS

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
504.529.2837 OR 52.WATER

www.swbno.org

September 16, 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 Monday, September 14, the National Weather Service issued a 48-hour flash flood watch for Orleans Parish in anticipation of heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Nicholas. The following is a preliminary report detailing the Sewerage & Water Board’s manpower, pumping and electrical power during the course of the event.

RAINFALL

Recorded rainfall over the course of this two-day event reached between 6 and 7” in several locations, including at Drainage Pumping Station 19 in the Upper Ninth Ward, Central Control in Hollygrove, and Drainage Pumping Station 7 near City Park. There were reports of localized street flooding throughout the metro area during the peak stages of the rain event.

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 95 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: I Pump out of service due to pump bearing issue

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

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

On Tuesday, September 14, the two 25 Hz drainage pumps at Drainage Pumping Station 7 tripped offline while the station was transferring to a parallel power source. The station operators brought the pumps back online within 35 minutes and suction levels returned to normal shortly thereafter, indicating that the pumps were effectively draining the surrounding area. Additionally, D Pump at Drainage Pumping Station 7 went offline briefly due to an electrical issue that has since been repaired. All pumps at the station are available for use.

On Wednesday, September 15, 25 Hz pumps C and F at Drainage Pumping Station 6 went offline due to a motor issue. A vendor has been retained to begin repairs today. 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:

For this event, Turbines 4, 5, and 6, four out of five EMDs, and all frequency changers were available. Operations at the Carrollton Water Plant switched to self-

generated power via Turbine 6 at noon on September 14. 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. Each of the EMDs will be taken offline for the same retrofit over the course of the coming months.

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