

Hurricane Ida Report #4

August 31, 2021

INCIDENT OVERVIEW Hurricane Ida made landfall August 29, 2021, at approximately 12:00 pm west of Grand Isle, Louisiana. High winds and storm surge affected the coastal Parishes of Louisiana, leading to widespread power and communications outages throughout Southeast Louisiana. Ida produced heavy rains across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi, Alabama, as well as the Lower Mississippi Valley resulting in considerable flash, urban, small stream, and riverine flooding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On August 31, 2021, FEMA issued a Mission Assignment for drinking water and wastewater subject matter experts to assist FEMA and the state. The Mission Assignment for mobile drinking water lab support in Louisiana is still in process of being signed.
- As of 1:00 pm on August 31, 2021, EPA has received a total of 20 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 14 are air releases. None have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone-Duty Officer.
- LDEQ reported that fifteen (15) of their ambient air monitoring sites had stopped polling, ~~partly~~ due to power outages on August 31, 2021.
- Per the Louisiana Department of Health, some water outages and boil water advisories may not be captured due to lack of communications with the water systems.

Status *	Systems Affected	Population Served
Water Outages	168	752,265
Boil Water Advisories	42	151,313

* As of 10:00 am on August 31, 2021

- LDEQ and the Louisiana State Police began their assessments of facilities via air and ground on August 31, 2021. Due to the issues with communications, results of the surveys are not yet known.
- Attempts to contact wastewater facilities will begin as systems are able to communicate. Currently communications and power are out in a large area of Southeast Louisiana.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- EPA contacted Shell Norco, the contact at the site indicated the plant is shut down, and at this point only residual gases are going to flares. The Louisiana State Police is onsite at this time monitoring the gasoline spill which is contained within secondary containment.
- The Office of External Affairs has made multiple posts to social media.
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eparegion6/posts/10157850999645458>;
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EPAregion6/status/143208864036939>

- EPA Region 6's Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is operating at Level 2 Increased Preparedness Posture.
- An EPA Region 6 Light Incident Management Team including an Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Safety Officer has been identified and is prepared to respond if requested by Louisiana.
- OCTEA continues to be in contact with the various community groups and tribes in Louisiana, with some reporting damage in their communities. The latest Spot Report was sent to stakeholders.
- A public response site has been created at <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activated the ESF #10 desk at the Regional Response Coordination Center and the State of Louisiana Emergency Operation Center on Saturday, August 28, 2021. EPA Region 6 is staffing both positions virtually.
- EPA contacted the 23 National Priority List (NPL) sites in Louisiana as part of the Remedial Program's normal pre-storm process. As of August 31, 2021, assessments for 10 sites are complete with no documented releases or impacts to the environment. No further responses are needed for these 10 sites. The loss of power, phone coverage, flooding, and business closures will impact site assessment completions. Coordination with LDEQ and other site contacts will continue, and assessments will be completed when conditions are safe.
- On August 27, 2021, ORC received a Force Majeure notice from the Valero (Meraux) Refinery in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The notice provides that the refinery will shut down its Community Air Monitoring Station on Ventura Drive in order to protect the equipment. The refinery provided the notice pursuant to the terms of the Consent Decree it is under.
- The latest US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) update states the Waterford-3 commercial nuclear power plant continues to remain in cold shutdown mode in response to the loss of offsite power. The station continues in a declared Notice of Unusual Event pending detailed analysis of conditions at the site and surrounding areas. Progress has been made on restoring a 230kV offsite power line to the plant with potential that this could be restored to the plant by 11:00 pm on August 31, 2021. The USNRC is continuing to monitor the situation, no requests for assistance have been received at this time.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is participating in the daily Hurricane Taskforce calls with the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), LDEQ, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) and the USCG to discuss storm preparations and resource availability.

EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas*	FEMA RRCC*	LA SEOC*	Total
Region 6	7	1	1	9
START	1	0	0	1
Total	8	1	1	10

* All virtual staffing

