

Hurricane Ida Report #3

August 30, 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 throughout the day. Ida is expected to produce heavy rains across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi, Alabama, as well as the Lower Mississippi Valley starting Sunday into Monday, resulting in considerable flash, urban, small stream, and riverine flooding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- FEMA is finalizing Mission Assignments for mobile drinking water lab support in Louisiana and drinking water and waste water subject matter experts.
- As of 1:00 pm on August 30, 2021, EPA has received a total of 13 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 11 are air releases. None have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone-Duty Officer.
- On August 30, 2021, Region 6 issued PCB disaster debris cleanup guidance for PCB-contaminated cleanup debris in response to the landfall of Hurricane Ida. The guidance template was prepared by HQ and is issued by an impacted Region when a disaster declaration has been made by the President or the Governor of a state.
- LDEQ reported that eight of the 41 ambient air monitoring sites had stopped polling, presumably due to power outages on August 29, 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	18	312,474
Boil Water Advisories	14	329,083

* As of 10:00 am on August 30, 2021

- LDEQ and the Louisiana State Police will begin their assessments of industrial facilities via air on August 31, 2021.
- 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.
- LDEQ reported on the Governor's Call today that it has received very few calls regarding releases, mainly due to communications being down in portions of the state. In addition, it was noted the Louisiana State Police hotline is also down at this time.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- 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.
- On August 30, 2021, the Chitimacha Tribe, Coushatta Tribe, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the Tunica Biloxi Indians in Louisiana are all reporting little to no damage. All tribes are continuing to monitor and/or conduct assessments.
- 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 30, 2021, assessments for 4 sites are complete with no documented releases or impacts to the environment. No further responses are needed for these 4 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 that the Waterford Nuclear Power Plant near New Orleans remains without offsite power and emergency generators are operating. The River Bend plant, north of Baton Rouge, was requested by the grid operator to reduce power and is currently operating at 35%. The USNRC has not activated its Incident Response Organization but 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