

# Hurricane Ida Report #5

## September 1, 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 September 1, 2021, EPA has received a total of 28 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 17 are air releases. None have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone Duty Officer.
- LDEQ reported that seventeen of their ambient air monitoring sites had stopped polling, due to power outages as of 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	212	621,153
Boil Water Advisories	95	403,156

\* As of 10:00 am on September 1, 2021

- LDEQ and the Louisiana State Police began their Rapid Needs Assessments on August 31, 2021 and will continue these assessments going forward. No major issues have been seen to date.
- 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 will deploy their Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML) to Norco and Chalmette Louisiana on September 2, 2021.

### 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. Excessive smoke seen in the community is a result of a lack of electricity and the inability to supply steam and nitrogen to the flare. Shell is conducting fence line and community air monitoring and reporting that

information to the St. Charles Parish EOC and have daily conversations with the Parish. Their engineers are looking at all options to try to reduce emissions to flare.

- The Office of External Affairs (ORAX) is working with the HQ Public Information Officer on press inquiries. ORAX 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. The latest Spot Report and press release were 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 September 1, 2021, assessments for 22 sites are complete with no documented releases or impacts to the environment. No further responses are needed for these 22 sites. The Colonial Creosote site is the last assessment to be completed. See map at end of report.
- On August 27, 2021, Office of Regional Counsel (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.
- On August 31, 2021, the counsel for the New Orleans Water and Sewerage Board communicated with ORC regarding the continuing bypass discharge of unknown amounts into the Mississippi River due to generator failure. Counsel for the Water and Sewerage Board stated a formal, Force Majeure notice in writing would be forthcoming.
- The latest US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) update states that at about midnight local time on August 31, 2021, Waterford-3 was able to exit the Notice of Unusual Event after off-site power was restored. The plant is stable in cold shutdown mode.
- The Region 6 mobile lab is operational and supplied with 800 coliform/E. coli test kits. The lab is staffed with one biologist and one driver and is certified for Drinking Water analysis. The R6 Mobile Lab will deploy contingent upon FEMA Mission Assignment authorization and negative COVID test for staff.

## **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*	LA Field	Total
<b>Region 6</b>	7	1	1	2	11
<b>START</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

\* All virtual staffing

