

Hurricane Ida Report #6

September 2, 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

- At 11:20 am on September 2, 2021, ASPECT flew their initial mission in support of EPA's response to Hurricane Ida.
- On September 1, 2021, FEMA issued the Mission Assignment for mobile drinking water lab support in Louisiana. Region 6 and Region 7 mobile labs were deployed on September 2, 2021.
- On August 31, 2021, FEMA issued a Mission Assignment for drinking water and wastewater subject matter experts to assist FEMA and the state. The two subject matter experts began their mission on September 1, 2021.
- As of 1:00 pm on September 2, 2021, EPA has received a total of 104 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 24* 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.
 - * After a review of NRC reports, it was determined multiple reports in the US Coast Guard AOR were mislabeled as being in the EPA AOR. These numbers reflect the corrected data.
- LDEQ reported that fifteen of their ambient air monitoring sites had stopped polling, due to power outages as of September 2, 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	179	203,976
Boil Water Advisories	137	887,330

* As of 10:00 am on September 2, 2021

- LDEQ and the Louisiana State Police are continuing their Rapid Needs Assessments throughout the impacted area. Assessments of drinking water, wastewater and industrial facilities are ongoing. No major issues have been reported to date.
- LDEQ deployed their two Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAML) on September 2, 2021, one to Norco, LA and the second to Chalmette, LA.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- The Office of External Affairs (ORAX) is working with the HQ EOC Public Information Officer on press inquiries. ORAX continues to post information to social media.

- 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 2, 2021, assessments for all 23 sites are complete with no documented releases or impacts to the environment. No further responses are needed for these sites. 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 September 2, 2021, ORC received an update to the notice, the facility still lacks power, therefore, the air monitoring has not resumed.
- 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.
- Fourteen intakes associated with 11 drinking water facilities along the Mississippi River are near the discharge by the New Orleans Water and Sewage Board. The Louisiana Department of Health has notified the water systems downstream of the release.

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.

