

Hurricane Ida Report #8

September 4, 2021 Report

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 September 4, 2021, EPA deployed the ASPECT air monitoring plane to assess industrial targets identified by the state of Louisiana following Hurricane Ida. On September 3, 2021, ASPECT overflew 10 facilities on the LDEQ priority list.
- 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 rsubject 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 4, 2021, EPA has received a total of 142 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 33 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 September 4, 2021.

- **Drinking Water System Status**

| Status * | Systems | Population Served |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Water Outages | 107 | 133,779 |
| Boil Water Advisories | 205 | 1,020,707 |
| Cleared of Boil Water Advisories | 6 | 13,432 |

* As of 8:30 am on September 4, 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.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

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

- On September 4, 2021, ORAX will issue news release "EPA Tools for Communities Cleaning Up after Hurricane Ida."
- OCTEA continues to follow-up on questions from the meeting on September 3, 2021 and pass along the daily report to stakeholders.
- A public response site has been created at <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>.
- As Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) transitions their activities to the field, the need for Liaison Officers from EPA has decreased, so as of September 4, 2021, only one EPA staff will serve as a liaison to FEMA. The position will continue to be staffed virtually.
- On September 2 and 3, 2021, the Region 6 Air Enforcement Branch reached out to 10 facilities that reported air releases to the National Response Center. Follow-up questions to the NRC reports were sent to these facilities. The facilities have 7 days to respond to EPA once they receive the questions.
- The EPA Remedial Program monitored 23 total NPL sites pre- and post-hurricane. All 23 were cleared and none required action.
- 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.
- A Force Majeure notice from New Orleans Water and Sewerage Board was received on September 3, 2021. The notice provides that the Sewerage and Water Board does not yet know the extent of damage sustained as a result of Hurricane Ida.
- 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. To date approximately 190 million gallons have bypassed the system. Power is now 100% being supplied by Entergy. The bypass will continue until the plant is fully operational.

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.

