

# Hurricane Ida Report #12

## September 8, 2021

**INCIDENT OVERVIEW** Hurricane Ida made landfall August 29, 2021, at approximately 12:00pm 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 8, 2021, EPA deployed the ASPECT air monitoring plane to assess industrial targets identified by the state of Louisiana following Hurricane Ida. ASPECT assessed 12 facilities on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) priority list plus on oil spill near Port Fourchon on September 7, 2021.
- As of 1:00 pm on September 8, 2021, EPA has received a total of 188 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 43 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.
- EPA is remotely monitoring two facilities with on-going air releases, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge and Shell Norco, and an oil spill in Lake Salvador which is currently being responded to by the responsible party.
- LDEQ reported that 8 of their ambient air monitoring sites have stopped polling due to power outages as of September 8, 2021. LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) are positioned in Norco and Marrero.
- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	38	45,395
Boil Water Advisories	232	601,819
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	53	520,964

\* As of 10:00 am on September 8, 2021

- LDEQ completed their initial Rapid Needs Assessments of the impacted area. At this time an ESF #10 Mission Assignment to EPA for assistance with orphan containers and spills is not anticipated. Assessments of drinking water, wastewater and industrial facilities are ongoing. No major issues have been reported to date.
- On September 7, 2021, the State of Louisiana requested a No Action Assurance (NAA) from EPA to facilitate the storage, transfer, and marketing of petroleum and other fuel products after Hurricane Ida. The NAA being requested is for the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations and provisions in Louisiana's State Implementation Plan that pertain to the distribution of gasoline. The NAA will help address current fuel shortages resulting from storm damage and increased demand post storm for storm relief efforts.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS**

- The EPA Region 6 and 7 mobile drinking water laboratories demobilized from the Hurricane Ida response on September 7, 2021 per instructions from FEMA.
- 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.
- 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.
- ORAX posted EPA links to Public Service Announcements about emergencies and disasters to <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>. These links are in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- OCTEA sent stakeholders the latest report on EPA's activities and included in the email an answer to an earlier question on the 23 NPL sites assessed by the Remedial program.
- OCTEA previously shared with LDEQ, that the United Houma Nation was severely impacted by the storm. LDEQ Emergency Response checked the state Emergency Operation Center ordering system and verified that the Houma Nation's request for a 5,000 ton AC unit was placed into the system September 7, 2021.
- 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.
- 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.
- EPA received a Force Majeure notice of a two-week delay from the Chair of the Star Lake Canal Cooperating Parties (SLCCP) pursuant to EPA's 09/26/2016 Remedial Design Administrative Order on Consent was received by EPA. The notice acknowledges that Hurricane Ida did not impact the Star Lake Canal Superfund Site near Port Neches, Texas. However, the Pre-Final Design work cannot be completed because the SLCCP contractors, who are located in Baton Rouge, LA, cannot deploy due to storm damage.
- Fourteen intakes associated with 11 drinking water facilities along the Mississippi River are near the discharge by the New Orleans Water and Sewerage Board. The Louisiana Department of Health has notified the water systems downstream of the release. Power has been restored to the plant, however, the bypass will continue until the plant is fully operational. Of the six drinking water systems downstream of the bypass, two have cleared their Boil Water Advisory (BWA), two are under a BWA, one still has an outage and information is still being collected on the sixth system.
- The SPod air monitors at the Denka Performance Elastomers may have the ability to sample for chloroprene as early as September 9, 2021. The SPods are powered by solar panels and batteries so the power disruption is not an issue. The two SPods taken down prior to Ida will also be reinstalled.
- The Region 6 Air Enforcement Branch sent follow-up questions to facilities that reported air releases to the National Response Center. The facilities have 7 days to respond to EPA.

#### **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.