

Hurricane Ida Report #14

September 10, 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

- In the 24-hour period prior to 12:00 pm on September 10, 2021, EPA has collected a total of 48 Roving Air Monitoring reading in the vicinity of Marathon, Denka, and Shell- Norco facilities. No VOC readings above the detection limits have been measured, PM_{2.5} readings have all been below screening levels.

Roving Air Monitoring to Date				
	Marathon	Denka	Shell Norco	Total
Downwind	12	11	10	33
Upwind	5	5	5	15
Total	17	16	15	48

- As of 12:00 pm on September 10, 2021, EPA has collected a total of 4 Air Monitoring readings in the Irish Channel and Port Fourchon area. No VOC readings above the detection limits have been measured, PM_{2.5} readings have all been below screening levels.
- On September 9, 2021, EPA set up 4 Summa Air Samplers. Downwind and upwind samplers were placed at the Shell-Norco and Marathon Garyville facilities. On September 10, 2021, 2 additional Summa Air Samplers will be set up at Denka, and 1 each at Irish Channel and Port Fourchon. See Map at end of report for locations of air sampling/monitoring locations.
- As of September 9, 2021, ASPECT completed the assigned mission of assessing industrial targets identified by the state of Louisiana following Hurricane Ida. ASPECT remains on stand-by for future missions as deemed necessary by LDEQ.
- As of 1:00 pm on September 10, 2021, EPA has received a total of 201 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 49 in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 20 are air releases. None have

required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone Duty Officer.

- EPA is following up with Shell Norco which has an on-going air release and monitoring an oil spill in Lake Salvador which is currently being responded to by the responsible party. ExxonMobil Baton Rouge has notified EPA that their releases have been secured.
- LDEQ reported that 7 of their ambient air monitoring sites have stopped polling due to power outages as of September 10, 2021. LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) are positioned in Norco and Marrero.
- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	23	41,489
Boil Water Advisories	152	453,335
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	149	673,309

* As of 10:00 am on September 10, 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.
- LDEQ is working with the Parishes to review, approve, and activate emergency debris sites.
- On September 9, 2021, EPA approved the No Action Assurance (NAA) request from LDEQ. The NAA will help address current fuel shortages resulting from storm damage and increased demand post storm for storm relief efforts.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- 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 will issue a press release entitled, "EPA's EJSCREEN Tool Helps Decisionmakers Consider Needs of Communities Impacted by Hurricane Ida." It will be shared with media, Congressional members and Environmental Justice stakeholders.
- OCTEA sent stakeholders the latest report on EPA's activities.
- On September 9, 2021, OCTEA sent emails detailing the status of EPA's chloroprene air monitoring in the community around the Denka Performance Elastomers facility in LaPlace to the Concerned Citizens of St. John and the St. John Parish President.
- 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.
- The continuous air monitors at the Denka Performance Elastomers may have the ability to sample for chloroprene as early as September 10, 2021. The continuous air monitors are powered by solar panels and batteries, so the power disruption is not an issue. The two continuous air monitors 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 NRC. The facilities have 7 days to respond to EPA.

FORCE MAJEURE

- 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.
- On September 8, 2021, ORC received an informal notice that the Phillips 66 Belle Chasse Refinery, Louisiana refinery shutdown in advance of Hurricane Ida's landfall and that it has remained shutdown since. The informal notice claims a more formal, written Force Majeure notice would be forthcoming no later than September 27, 2021.

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.

