

## **Hurricane Ida Report #15**

### **September 13, 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**

- As of September 12, 2021, EPA has set up Stationary Air Monitors for PM<sub>2.5</sub> co-located with Summa Air Samplers for VOCs. The Stationary Air Monitors and the Summa Air Samplers are stationed at 8 locations. 1 downwind and 1 upwind of each facility (Marathon, Denka, and Shell-Norco). 1 each at Irish Channel and Port Fourchon. PM<sub>2.5</sub> readings have all been below screening levels.
- In the period from 12:00 pm on September 10, 2021 to 10:00 am on September 13, 2021, EPA has collected a total of 95 Roving Air Monitoring readings in the vicinity of Marathon, Denka, and Shell-Norco facilities. All VOC and PM<sub>2.5</sub> readings have been below the screening levels. As the Stationary Air Monitors are up and running the Roving Air Monitoring will be discontinued moving forward.

<b>Roving Air Monitoring to Date</b>				
	<b>Marathon</b>	<b>Denka</b>	<b>Shell Norco</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Downwind</b>	18	20	24	62
<b>Upwind</b>	9	13	11	33
<b>Total</b>	27	33	35	95

- In the period from 12:00 pm on September 10, 2021 to 10:00 am on September 13, 2021, EPA has collected a total of 16 Air Monitoring readings in the Irish Channel and Port Fourchon areas. No VOC or PM<sub>2.5</sub> readings above the

detection limits have been measured. These hand-held readings will be discontinued since stationary Air Monitors for PM<sub>2.5</sub> co-located with Summa Air Samplers for VOCs have been deployed.

- As of 10:00 am on September 13, 2021, EPA has received a total of 204 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 52 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.
- On September 11, 2021, ASPECT flew a mission of grids as requested by the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office. The grids contained locations of previously reported oil spills. ASPECT remains on stand-by for future missions as deemed necessary by LDEQ.
- LDEQ reported that 6 of their ambient air monitoring sites have stopped polling due to power outages as of September 13, 2021. Both of LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) were positioned in Norco over the weekend but will be returning to their homebase as of September 14, 2021.
- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	19	19,724
Boil Water Advisories	86	318,654
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	221	829,755

\* As of 3:00 pm on September 12, 2021

- 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.

## 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 is working with the Incident Management Team, LDEQ and HQ to create a "Story Map" which will provide EPA and LDEQ's response actions as well as maps and photos.
- OCTEA sent stakeholders the latest report on EPA's activities.
- On September 12, 2021, OCTEA received an email from a stakeholder regarding state recognized tribal communities which are in need of clean roads, communications, food, water, shower units, laundry needs, medical needs, medicine, generators for temporary power, and temporary assistance trailers or FEMA trailers. OCTEA provided contact information for the Houma Nation to the State Leader (Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell) in Governor John Bell Edwards office.
- 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 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.
- 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.

