

# Hurricane Ida Report #16

## September 14, 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 13, 2021, EPA continued Stationary Air Monitoring (for PM2.5) with co-located with Summa Air Sampling. 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) and 1 each at Irish Channel and Port Fourchon. PM2.5 readings have all been below the 24-hr NAAQS comparison value of 35 ug/m3.

PM2.5 readings for 9/13/2021 (0000 – 2400)		
Location	24-hr Time Weighted Avg (ug/m3)	Maximum m m Detection (ug/m3)
Denka DW*	-	-
Denka UW	4.84	9.5
Irish Channel	5.66	7.7
Marathon DW	10.697	22.8
Marathon UW	9.6	20.6
Norco DW	3.49	9.993
Norco UW	5.029	25
Port Fourchon	5.323	9.714

\*SGS monitoring device was experiencing connectivity issues, the data will be manually downloaded at a later time.

- As of 1:00 pm on September 14, 2021, EPA has received a total of 206 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 53 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.

- ASPECT remains on stand-by for future missions as deemed necessary by LDEQ.
- LDEQ reported that 5 of their ambient air monitoring sites have stopped polling due to power outages as of September 14, 2021. Both of LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs(MAMLs) were positioned in Norco over the weekend and have now returned to their home base.
- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	17	19,707
Boil Water Advisories	87	317,507
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	222	830,964

\* As of 3:00 pm on September 13, 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

- As of September 13, 2021, FEMA has asked EPA to demobilize the Drinking Water Subject Matter Expert (SME). The Wastewater SMEs will continue their mission with a new staff member rotating in on September 15, 2021.
- The Incident Management Team, the Office of External Affairs (ORAX), LDEQ and HQ cooperated on the creation of a "Story Map" which outlines EPA's and LDEQ's response actions as well as maps and photos. The story map can be found on the response site at <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda> or directly at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3c0d86c01bb14f7898ae22251e4f5f1b>
- ORAX is working with the HQ Public Information Officer on press inquiries. ORAX continues to post information to social media.
- ORAX issued a press release on September 14, 2021, "EPA and LDEQ Announce StoryMap Resource: Interactive tool provides easy access to Hurricane Ida data." This was sent to media, R6 ListServe, Congressional delegation in LA, EJ management for distribution to stakeholders and HQ.
- OCTEA sent stakeholders the latest report on EPA's activities.
- On September 14, 2021, OCTEA held a stakeholders meeting that was attended by members of the Incident Management Team. Stakeholders were walked through the StoryMap and its uses. Participants were also informed that two additional air monitors had been restored. Information shared from stakeholders includes:
  - Concerns were expressed for those trying to recover from Ida and now having to also deal with the impacts of Hurricane Nicholas. A lot of people who had returned and began repairs on their homes are now facing additional damage because they do not have blue tarps. Most lack the resources to make the repairs.
  - Stakeholders would like to see an official announcement from LDEQ that they are suspending notices and extending public comment periods for the duration of the declared emergency. Stakeholders are seeing new announcements and have not seen a notification that public comment periods will be extended.

- Stakeholders inquired whether the follow-ups done by Enforcement to the NRC spill reports will be released.
  - Stakeholders thanked EPA for the Summa air canisters and reported that they were working.
- EPA continues to virtually staff the liaison role with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 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.
- As of September 10, 2021, 5 of the sites around Denka are fully operational (Acorn, 5th Ward Elementary, Levee, High School and Chad Baker) with continuous PIDs, wind sensors and 3 summa canisters installed at each site to collect event triggered chloroprene measurements. The other site (Hospital) is undergoing maintenance and repair of specific pieces of equipment.

## **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.
- On September 13, 2021, ORC received a Force Majeure notice from Union Carbide Corporation pursuant to a Consent Decree with the EPA. The notice provides that Hurricane Ida knocked out power to its Hahnville, Louisiana facility. As a result, flare monitoring data has not been available. A subsequent email update to the Force Majeure notice provides that power was restored on September 9, 2021 and that the facility is going through the process to reintroduce power systematically to each building, control systems, instruments and equipment and at the same time completing damage assessments.
- On September 14, 2021, ORC received a Force Majeure notice from Exxon Mobil Corporation's Baton Rouge,

Louisiana refinery pursuant to a 2005 Consent Decree it entered into with the EPA. The notice provides that Hurricane Ida damaged and disrupted third party suppliers of feedstocks, utilities, other critical infrastructure and specifically nitrogen supply. The loss of nitrogen supply impacted operations and contributed to a shutdown of the refinery during the storm. The shutdown, restart efforts and lack of nitrogen supply have resulted in compliance issues with the refinery's consent decree obligations.

## 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.

