

Hurricane Ida Report #10

September 20, 2021

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 19, 2021, EPA continued Stationary Air Monitoring (for PM_{2.5}) with co-located 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. PM_{2.5} readings have all been below the 24-hr NAAQS comparison value of 35 ug/m³. EPA is coordinating with LDEQ on the release of the summa canister sampling data.

PM2.5 readings for 9/19/2021 (0000 – 2400)		
Location	24-hr Time Weighted Avg (ug/m3)	Maximum Detection (ug/m3)
Denka DW	1.46	2.70
Denka UW	1.87	4.40
Irish Channel	3.06	5.90
Marathon DW	2.25	3.90
Marathon UW	2.10	4.60
Norco DW	2.08	10.30
Norco UW	1.73	4.70
Port Fourchon	3.58	5.70

- As of 10:00 am on September 20, 2021, EPA has received a total of 216 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 62 in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 21 are air releases. No reports have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone Duty Officer.
- EPA is monitoring on-going flaring at Shell Norco and an oil spill in Lake Salvador being responded to by the responsible party.
- LDEQ reported that 1 of its ambient air monitoring sites has stopped polling due to power outages as of September 20, 2021.

- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	13	14,067
Boil Water Advisories	30	126,722
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	283	1,027,389

* As of 3:00 pm on September 18, 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

- 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. PM_{2.5} data for the EPA air monitoring locations is now also available. 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.
- OCTEA sent stakeholders the latest report on EPA's activities.
- On September 17, 2021, a stakeholder reported to OCTEA that on September 16, 2021, Shell Norco was lit up with flares and offensive odors; Shell West was flaring; Shell East and the refinery was flaring with multiple flares; Valero was flaring with multiple flares and that across the river, Union Carbide was flaring. The stakeholder also reported that the odors were really bad and asked if the summa canisters were collecting samples. The stakeholder was informed that EPA was sampling and that EPA is doing 24-hr summa can sampling upwind and downwind of Shell Norco, Marathon Garyville, and Denka.
- 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 18, 2021, all 6 of the sites around Denka are fully operational with continuous PIDs, wind sensors and 3 summa canisters installed at each site to collect event triggered chloroprene measurements.

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.

