



Hurricanes Laura and Sally | Update #20

REPORT TIME & DATE: 11:00 AM EDT | Wednesday, September 16, 2020

REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hurricane Sally made landfall around 5:45 AM EDT near Gulf Shores, Alabama. As of 8:00 AM EDT, Sally was 15 miles north-northeast of Gulf Shores, Alabama, moving north-northeast at 3 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 100 MPH. On the forecast track, the center of Sally will move across the western Florida panhandle and southeastern Alabama through early Thursday, and move over central Georgia Thursday afternoon through Thursday night. The DOE Energy Response Center remains activated to manage Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12 activities and to coordinate with industry partners in response to Hurricanes Sally and Laura.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 7:30 AM EDT, there were approximately 507,000 customer outages reported across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Approximately 66,000 of these outages are customers remaining without power from Hurricane Laura.
- As Sally continues to move across Florida and Alabama, power outages may continue to quickly increase. Utilities in the impacted area have pre-staged crews, equipment, and materials, and mutual assistance networks have been activated to support restoration efforts as needed.
- Restoration efforts for Hurricane Laura are being supported by mutual assistance. At the peak, over 29,000 personnel from over 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada were supporting restoration efforts.
- Hurricane Laura caused significant damage to transmission infrastructure in portions of Louisiana and Texas. Restoration of transmission systems is a priority to help enable other phases of restoration. Full restorations for the most significantly damaged areas in western Louisiana will be extended, taking up to several weeks for some portions of southwest Louisiana.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

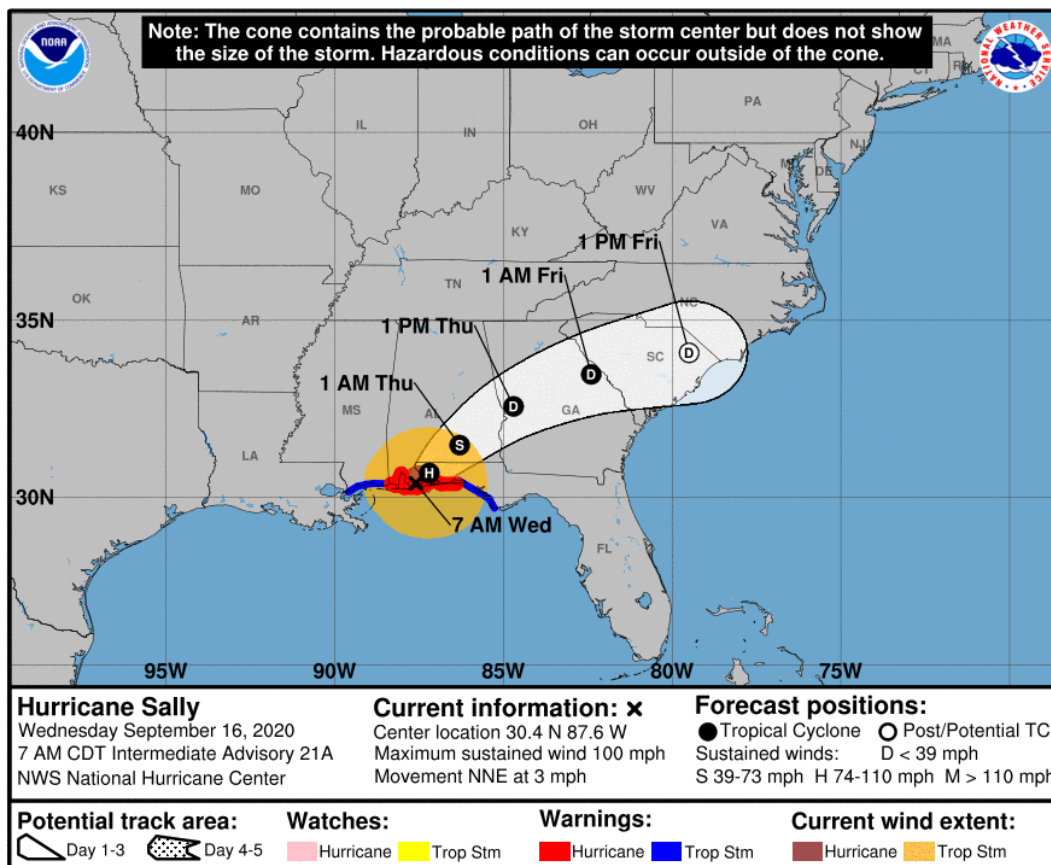
- As of 12:30 PM EDT September 15, 0.497 million barrels per day (b/d) (26.87%) of the oil production and 0.76 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) (28.03%) of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico have been shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- The refinery and offshore platform shut-ins are not anticipated to cause immediate supply issues. For the week ending on September 4, overall U.S. stocks of gasoline and distillate were 3.0% and 20.6% above the seasonal 5-year average. Jet fuel is slightly below the average, but within the 5-year range. Across the Gulf Coast, stocks of gasoline and distillate were 11% and 37% above the 5-year average respectively. Gulf Coast stocks of crude oil were 20.1% above the 5-year average in the Gulf Coast (not including the SPR).

HURRICANE SALLY

As of 8:00 AM EDT, Hurricane Sally was 15 miles north-northeast of the gulf shores of Alabama, moving north-northeast at 3 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 100 MPH. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 125 miles. On the forecast track, the center of Sally will move across the extreme western Florida panhandle and southeastern Alabama through early Thursday, and move over central Georgia Thursday afternoon through Thursday night.

Through this afternoon, Laura is expected to produce rainfall totals of 8 to 12 inches with localized higher amounts possible. Historic and catastrophic flooding is unfolding. In addition, the significant rainfall will lead to widespread moderate to major flooding on area rivers.

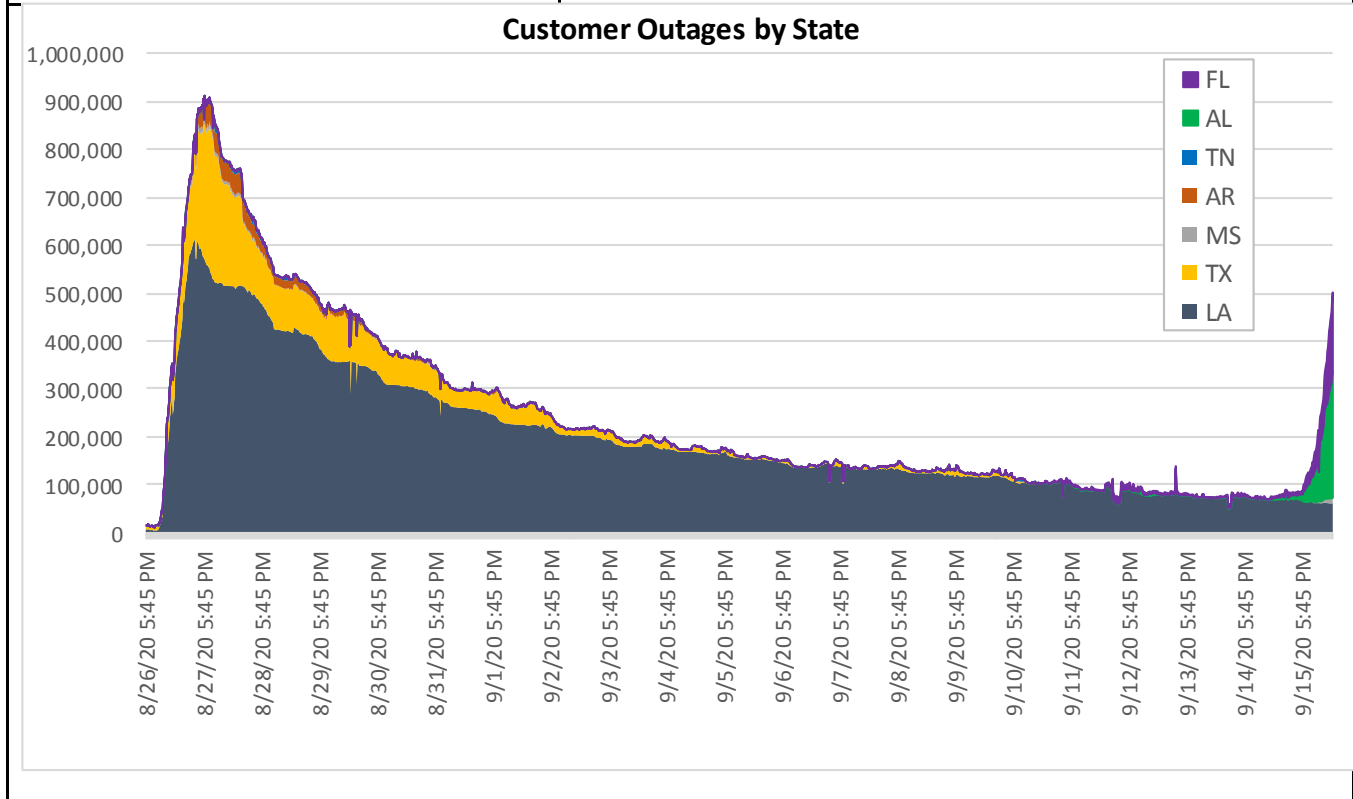
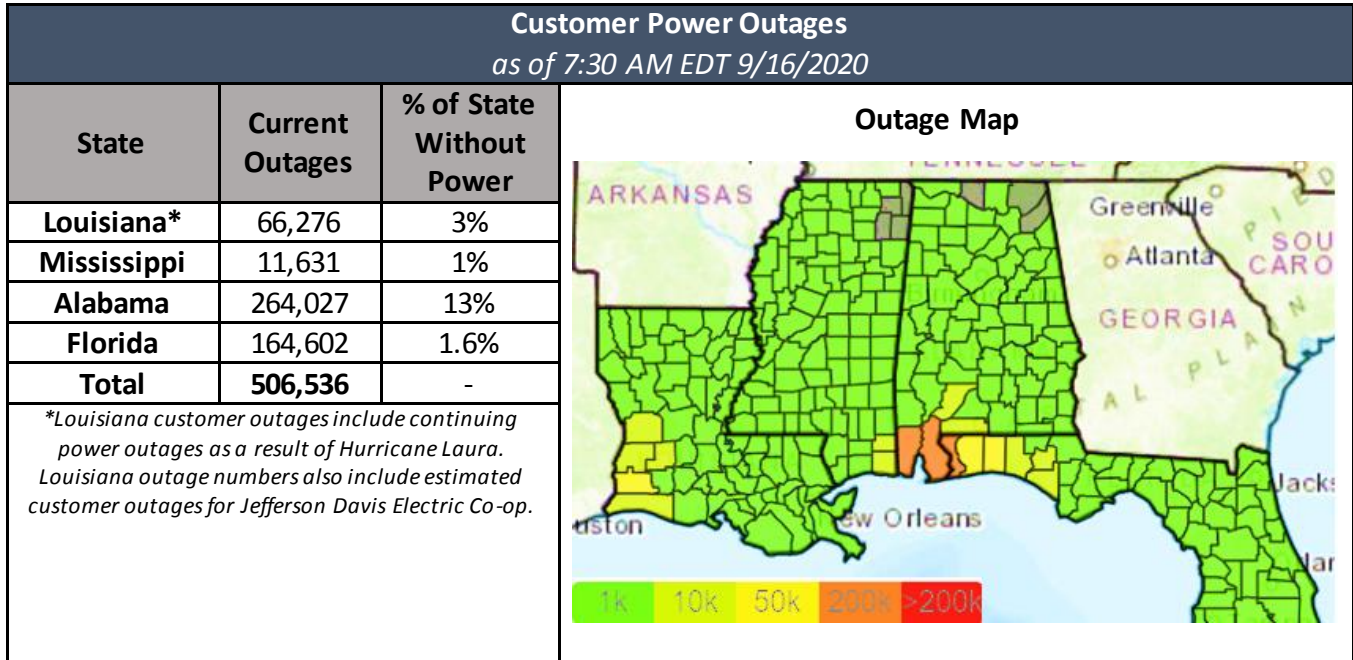
A hurricane warning is in effect for the Mississippi/Alabama border to the Okaloosa/Walton County line in Florida. A tropical storm warning is in effect from East of the Okaloosa/Walton County line to Indian Pass, Florida and for the Mississippi/Alabama border to the mouth of the Pearl River. A storm surge warning is in effect from Dauphin Island, Alabama, to the Walton/Bay County line in Florida.



ELECTRICITY SECTOR

POWER OUTAGES

- As of 7:30 AM EDT, there are a total of 506,536 outages across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Approximately 66,276 of these outages are customers still without power from Hurricane Laura.

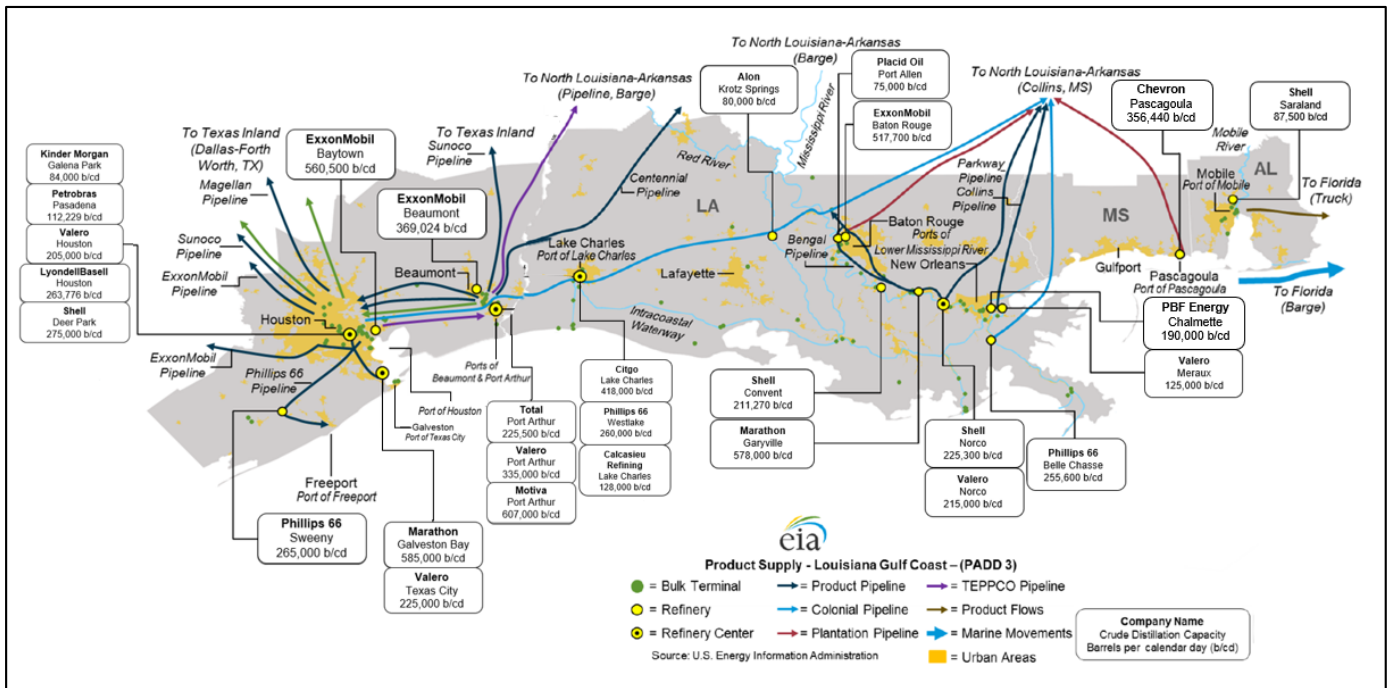


RESTORATION OVERVIEW

- As Sally continues to move across Florida and Alabama, power outages may continue to quickly increase. Utilities in the impacted area have pre-staged crews, equipment, and materials, and mutual assistance networks have been activated to support restoration efforts as needed.
- Restoration efforts and damage assessments will be limited until Hurricane Sally passes and weather conditions permit. Crews are unable to operate in heavily flooded areas and when wind speeds are greater than 30 MPH. Debris and flooding may limit initial access to some locations.
- Restorations from Hurricane Laura continue across portions of western Louisiana. The hardest-hit areas, where distribution and transmission systems need to be rebuilt, will be a multi-week effort. While full restoration in the hardest-hit areas will take several weeks, customers will be restored as repairs are complete and transmission is available. A significant number of customers may not be able to receive power at this time due to damage to customer equipment and/or damage to the customer's structure.
- Restoration efforts for Hurricane Laura are being supported by mutual assistance. At the peak over 29,000 personnel from over 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada were supporting restoration efforts. As utilities in less-impacted areas complete restorations, they are coordinating release of crews with neighboring utilities to support efforts in the hardest-hit areas.
- Fluctuation in the outage numbers is expected and normal during large-scale restoration efforts.
- Utilities follow an overall plan to restore service to customers. After power is restored to essential services and facilities critical to public health and safety, crews focus on repairing lines that will return service to the largest number of customers in the least amount of time. Power is restored systematically to neighborhoods, industries, and businesses and then to individual homes and small groups of customers.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS SECTOR

Just over half of total U.S. refining capacity is located in the Gulf Coast (PADD 3) region. Gulf Coast refinery production is critical for supplying fuels to markets in the high-demand East Coast (PADD 1) region. Products move out of the Gulf Coast region on the Colonial and Plantation pipeline systems to Southeast and Central Atlantic markets, and via tanker and barge to Florida. The Gulf Coast refineries export approximately 20% of production to foreign countries. This provides a significant “export buffer,” allowing refiners to shift fuel production away from exports to make up for shortages in domestic markets. The map below highlights the petroleum supply chain in the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coast regions.



OFFSHORE PRODUCTION

- As of 12:30 PM EDT September 15, 0.497 million barrels per day (b/d) (26.87%) of the oil production and 0.760 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) (28.03%) of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico have been shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- In addition, BSEE reports that 149 out of 643 manned platforms have been evacuated; 3 out of 10 non-dynamically positioned rigs have been evacuated; and 2 out of 17 dynamically positioned rigs have moved out of Sally’s path as a precaution.

PORTS

- Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) has suspended operations at its marine terminal and stopped loading tankers on September 13. LOOP is the only U.S. port capable of receiving very large crude carriers (VLCCs). LOOP's Clovelly Hub deliveries remain normal. As of September 15, LOOP remains partially operational and making deliveries from unaffected facilities; no delivery suspensions are anticipated.
- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has set the following conditions for ports and waterways as a result of Laura and/or Sally. Listed in the table are select ports that receive petroleum products.

Status of Gulf Coast Ports as of 7:30 AM EDT 09/16/2020				
Port Sector	Port	Inbound Petroleum* (b/d)	Status	Date Stamp
Port Arthur and Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	394,000	Open with restrictions.	9/7
Houma	Morgan City, LA	208,000	Open with restrictions.	9/15
New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	201,000	Open with restrictions.	9/15
	Baton Rouge, LA	83,000	Open with restrictions.	9/15
	Gramercy, LA	110,000	Open with restrictions.	9/15
Mobile	Pascagoula, MS	131,000	Port Status Zulu. Closed.	9/14
	Mobile, AL	191,000	Port Status Zulu. Closed.	9/14
	Pensacola, FL	10,000	Port Status Zulu. Closed.	9/14

*Crude oil and products from foreign and domestic sources (2018).

Source: Receipt data from EIA Company Level Imports, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center

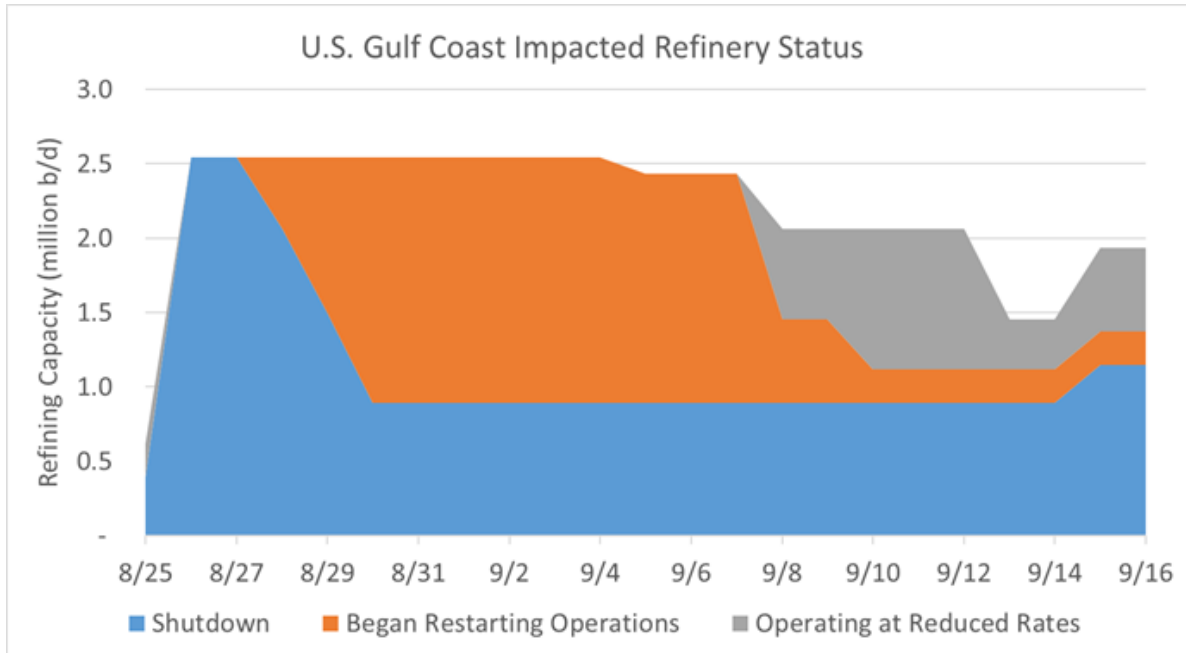
- As of September 10, Port Condition Recovery remains in effect for the Calcasieu Waterway. Shoaling in the Calcasieu Bar and River is restricting the draft of transiting vessels. Two swing bridges east of the Calcasieu Lock are open from 6 PM to 7 AM daily to allow inland traffic until normal operations are restored.
- As of 3:00 PM EDT September 15, Port Condition Zulu is in effect for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from mile marker 20 to 93 and eastbound traffic from mile marker 93 to 108.

PETROLEUM PIPELINES

- Pipeline companies have implemented their Hurricane Preparedness Plans ahead of Hurricane Sally and are ready to respond as necessary.

PETROLEUM REFINERIES

- As of 8:00 AM EDT, September 16, five refineries in the Gulf Coast region were reported shut down, according to public reports. These refineries have a combined refining capacity of 1.1 million b/d, equal to 12% of total Gulf Coast (PADD 3) refining capacity and 6% of total U.S. refining capacity.
- Another two refineries are in the process of restarting after being shut down. Restart may take several days. The restarting refineries have a combined capacity of 0.56 million b/d, equal to 6% of total Gulf Coast (PADD 3) refining capacity and 3% of total U.S. refining capacity.



The above chart summarizes impacts to Gulf Coast refining capacity as a result of Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Sally over time, as reported in DOE’s Situation Reports. Impacted refining capacity is aggregated into three categories: 1) shutdown refineries (blue), 2) refineries that were shut down and have begun restarting (orange), and refineries that are operating at reduced rates (gray). Refinery statuses are updated based on various news outlets and company websites.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE (SPR) SITES

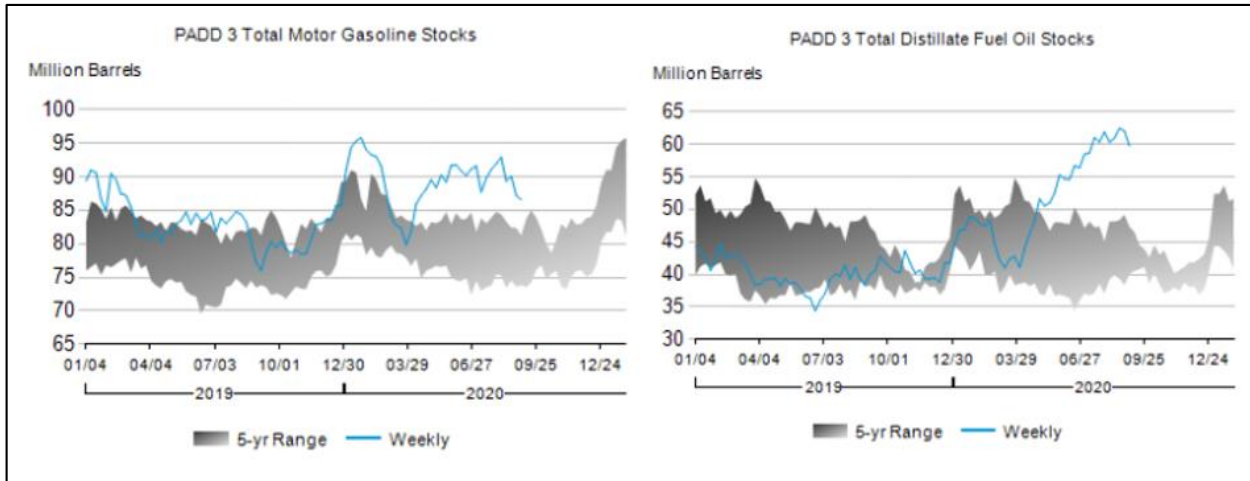
- As of September 15, assessment, cleanup, and recovery efforts are underway at West Hackberry.

Status of SPR Sites <i>as of 11:00 AM EDT 09/15/2020</i>			
Site	Location	Hurricane Alert Level	Drawdown Capability
New Orleans Office	New Orleans, LA	Level 4	N/A
Bayou Choctaw	Plaquemine, LA	Level 4	Drawdown Ready
West Hackberry	Hackberry, LA	Re-Entry & Reconstitution	Pending Reconstitution
Big Hill	Winnie, TX	Normal Operations	Drawdown Ready
Bryan Mound	Freeport, TX	Normal Operations	Drawdown Ready

Source: DOE Office of Petroleum Reserves

FUEL STOCKS

- For the week ending on September 4, 2020, the Gulf Coast (PADD 3) had 86.6 million barrels of total gasoline stocks (down 0.6 million barrels from last week), according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). This is 11% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year. For the week ending on September 4, the Gulf Coast had 59.7 million barrels of total distillate stocks (down 2.3 million barrels from last week), according to EIA. This is 37% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year.



- Overall U.S. stocks for transportation fuels (gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel) stood at 446.6 million barrels for the week ending September 4, 2020, approximately 8.0% above the 5-year average for the time of year. Gasoline and distillate stocks are 3.0% and 20.6%, above their respective seasonal 5-year averages, while jet fuel stocks are 9.1% below its respective 5-year average, but within the 5-year range.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS & WAIVERS

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain Federal safety regulations, including Hours of Service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See [49 CFR 390.23](#) for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and HOS Waivers as of 7:30 AM EDT 09/16/2020				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
AL, FL, GA, LA, MS	FMCSA Hours of Service Waiver (Sally)	9/15	10/14	Active
AL, AR, LA, MS, MO, OK, TN, TX	FMCSA Hours of Service Waiver (Laura)	8/27	9/23	Active
Arkansas	State of Emergency (Laura)	8/26	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/27	Until rescinded	Active
Kentucky	State Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/27	9/10	Inactive
Puerto Rico	State of Emergency (Laura)	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
Alabama	State of Emergency (Sally)	9/14	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Sally)	9/14	Until rescinded	Active
Florida	State of Emergency (Sally)	9/14	Sixty days unless extended	Active
Mississippi	State of Emergency (Sally)	9/13	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Sally)	9/14	Until rescinded	Active
	State of Emergency (Laura)	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
Louisiana	State of Emergency (Sally)	9/12	10/11	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Sally)	9/14	Until rescinded	Active
	State of Emergency (Laura)	8/21	9/20	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/23	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Disaster Declaration (Laura)	8/28	Until rescinded	Active
Texas	State of Disaster Declaration (Laura)	8/23	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration (Laura)	8/23	Until rescinded	Active

Sources: State government, White House, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration websites.

WAIVERS

- On September 15, the Alabama Department of Revenue temporarily [suspended](#) motor fuel exporter, importer, and transporter licensing requirements associated with the Alabama Terminal Excise Tax for those supporting disaster relief efforts in Alabama or other states where a state of emergency from Hurricane Sally has been declared. This is valid for 90 days.
- On August 27, the Secretary of Energy used his authorities under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act to issue an emergency [order](#) authorizing and directing CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric (CEHE) to operate an existing, permanent tie-line to assist in electricity restoration of power to Entergy Texas, Inc. and electric cooperatives and municipal customers within the State of Texas as a result of the outages caused by Hurricane Laura.
- On August 26, the Texas Department of Environmental Quality requested and received approval for the suspension of various air quality and other environmental rules during the storm response. The rules cover air emissions from power plants, refineries, and vehicles, in addition to other sources of pollution.
- On August 26, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued an emergency waiver order declaring an emergency in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas and suspending certain requirements for the transportation of hazardous materials. The waiver is intended to support the U.S. Coast Guard and EPA in their response to Laura.