



Hurricane Laura | Update #1

REPORT TIME & DATE: 11:00 AM EDT | Tuesday, August 25, 2020

REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of 8:15 AM EDT, Hurricane Laura was 145 miles northwest of the western tip of Cuba, moving west-northwest at 17 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 75 MPH. Laura is forecast to approach the Upper Texas and Southwest Louisiana coasts on Wednesday night and move inland on Thursday. Laura is expected to strengthen over the next 48 hours and forecast to be a major hurricane at landfall. On August 22, Laura passed to the south of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico as a tropical storm, causing scattered power outages across the region. The DOE Energy Response Center remains activated to coordinate with interagency, state, and industry partners.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 8:00 AM EDT, there were no significant customer outages across Louisiana and Mississippi, down from a combined peak of around 4,500 customer outages on August 24.
- As of 7:00 AM EDT, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) reported 2,200 (0.15%) customer outages remaining in Puerto Rico.

Oil & Natural Gas Sector Summary

- The ports of New Orleans, Gramercy, Morgan City, and Baton Rouge are closed in anticipation of the storms.
- Due to potential impacts from Tropical Storms Laura and Marco, as of 12:30 PM EDT, August 24, 82% of the oil production and 57% of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico are shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

LAURA & MARCO

Post-Tropical Cyclone Marco: As of 5:00 AM EDT, Post-Tropical Cyclone Marco was a remnant located about 60 miles south of Morgan City, Louisiana, moving west at 10 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 30 MPH. Additional weakening is expected, and Post-Tropical Cyclone Marco is forecast to dissipate by early Wednesday, if not sooner. There are no coastal watches or warnings in effect for the storm system.

Hurricane Laura: As of 8:15 AM EDT, Hurricane Laura was 145 miles northwest of the western tip of Cuba, moving west-northwest at 17 MPH, with maximum sustained winds of 75 MPH. Tropical storm-force winds extend outward up to 175 miles from the center. On the forecast track, the center of Laura will move away from Cuba and over the southeastern Gulf of Mexico this morning. Laura is then forecast to move over the central and northwestern Gulf of Mexico tonight and Wednesday, approach the Upper Texas and Southwest Louisiana coasts on Wednesday night and move inland near those areas on Thursday. Significant strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Laura is now expected to be a major hurricane at landfall.

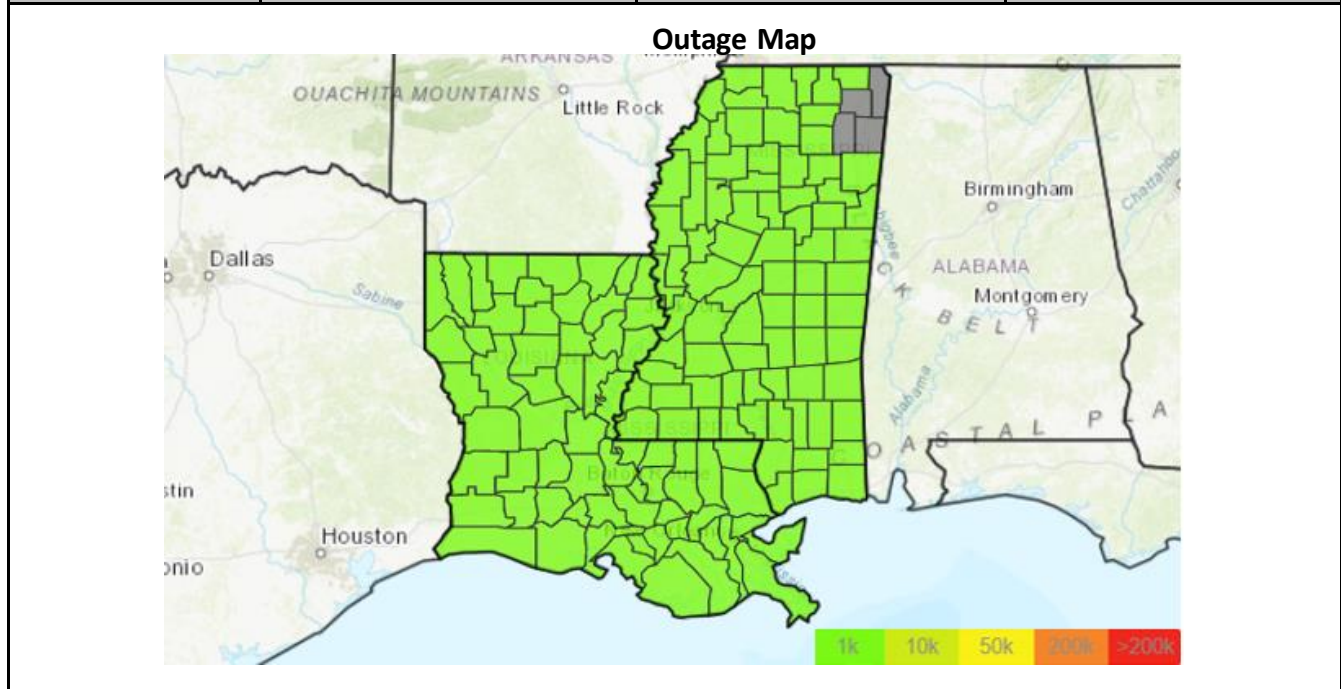
From Wednesday afternoon into Saturday, Laura is expected to produce rainfall of 4 to 8 inches, with isolated totals up to 12 inches, across portions of the west-central U.S. Gulf Coast near the Texas and Louisiana border north into portions of the lower Mississippi Valley. A hurricane watch is in effect for San Luis Pass, Texas to west of Morgan City, Louisiana. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the Dry Tortugas, and a tropical storm watch is in effect from San Luis Pass to Freeport, Texas and from Morgan City, Louisiana to the mouth of the Mississippi River. A storm surge watch is in effect for San Luis Pass, Texas to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, including Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and Lake Borgne.

ELECTRICITY SECTOR

POWER OUTAGES

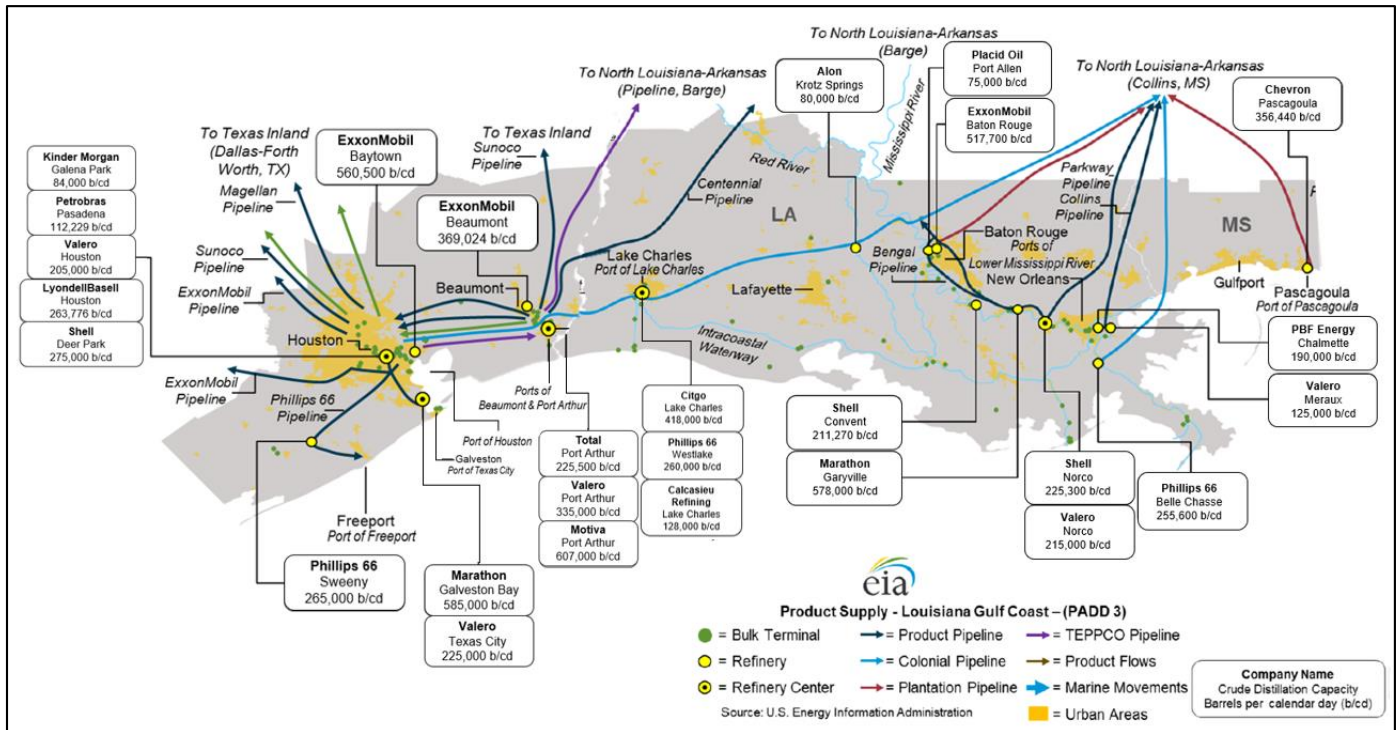
- As of 8:00 AM EDT, there were approximately 191 customer outages across Louisiana and Mississippi, less than 1% of total customers, down from a combined peak of around 4,500 customer outages on August 24.
- Potentially affected utilities are preparing for impacts from Hurricane Laura, including pre-positioning crews, materials, and equipment. Mutual assistance networks are holding preparedness calls to support post-storm restoration efforts as needed.

Marco Customer Power Outages as of 8:00 AM EDT 08/25/2020			
Territory	Current Outages	% of State Without Power	Peak 24-Hour Outages
Louisiana	83	<1%	3,054
Mississippi	108	<1%	2,500
Total	191		



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 and Texas Gulf Coast regions.



PORTS

- **Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP)** has suspended operations at its marine terminal as of August 23, per standard procedure. LOOP is the U.S. port capable of receiving very large crude carriers (VLCCs). LOOP's Clovelly Hub deliveries remain normal.
- The U.S. Coast Guard has set the following conditions for ports and waterways as a result of Laura and Marco. Listed in the table are select ports that receive petroleum products.

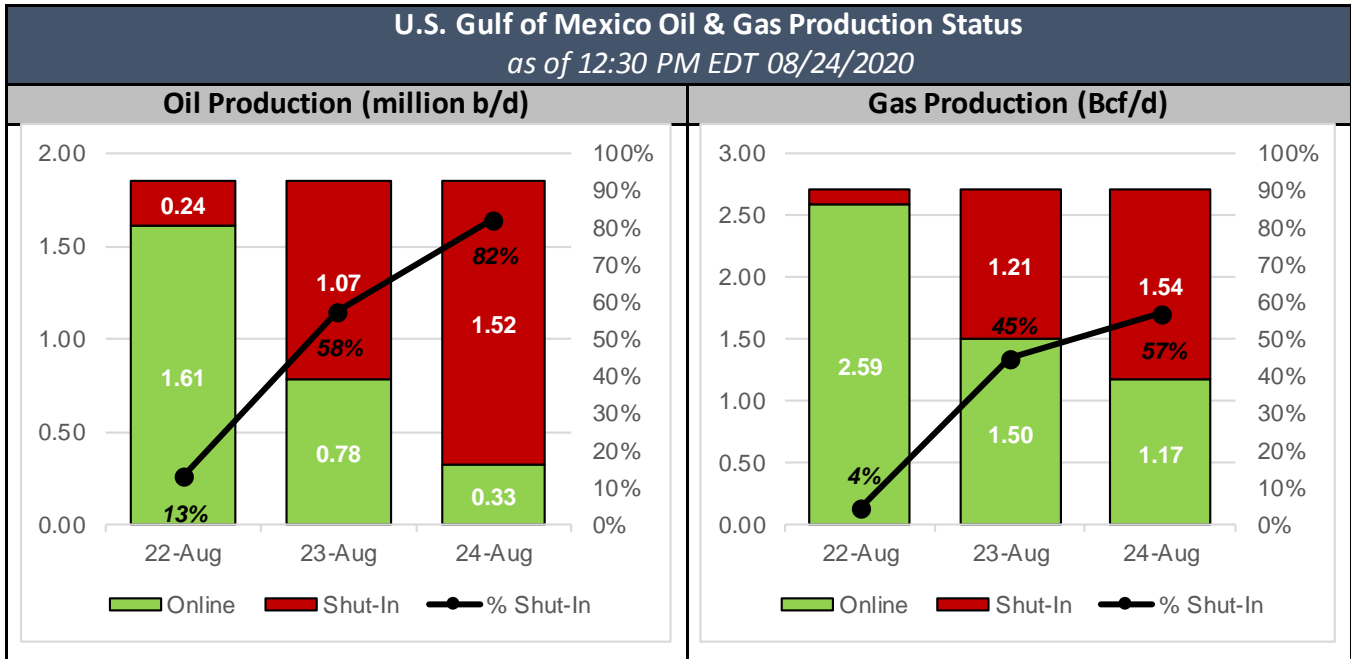
Status of Gulf Coast Ports as of 8:00 AM EDT 08/25/2020			
Port	Inbound Petroleum * (b/d)	Status	Date Stamp
Florida			
Tampa, FL	300,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/22
Port Manatee, FL	22,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/22
Alabama			
Mobile, AL	191,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/23
Mississippi			
Pascagoula, MS	131,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/23
Louisiana			
Baton Rouge, LA	83,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/23
Gramercy, LA	110,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/23
Morgan City, LA	208,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/23
New Orleans, LA	201,000	Closed. Port Condition Zulu.	8/23
Lake Charles, LA	394,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/23
Texas			
Port Arthur, TX	358,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/23
Beaumont, TX	365,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/23
Freeport, TX	94,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/24
Galveston, TX	33,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/24
Houston, TX	894,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/24
Texas City, TX	113,000	Open with restrictions. Port Status X-Ray.	8/24

*Crude oil and product foreign imports and domestic movements in 2018.

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

OFFSHORE PRODUCTION

- As of 12:30 PM EDT, August 24, 1.52 million barrels per day (b/d) (82.4%) of the oil production and 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) (56.92%) of the natural gas production in the federally administered areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico are shut-in, according to estimates by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).
- In addition, BSEE reports that 281 out of 643 manned platforms have been evacuated; 6 out of 10 non-dynamically positioned rigs have been evacuated; and 11 out of 16 dynamically positioned rigs have moved out of the storm’s path as a precaution.

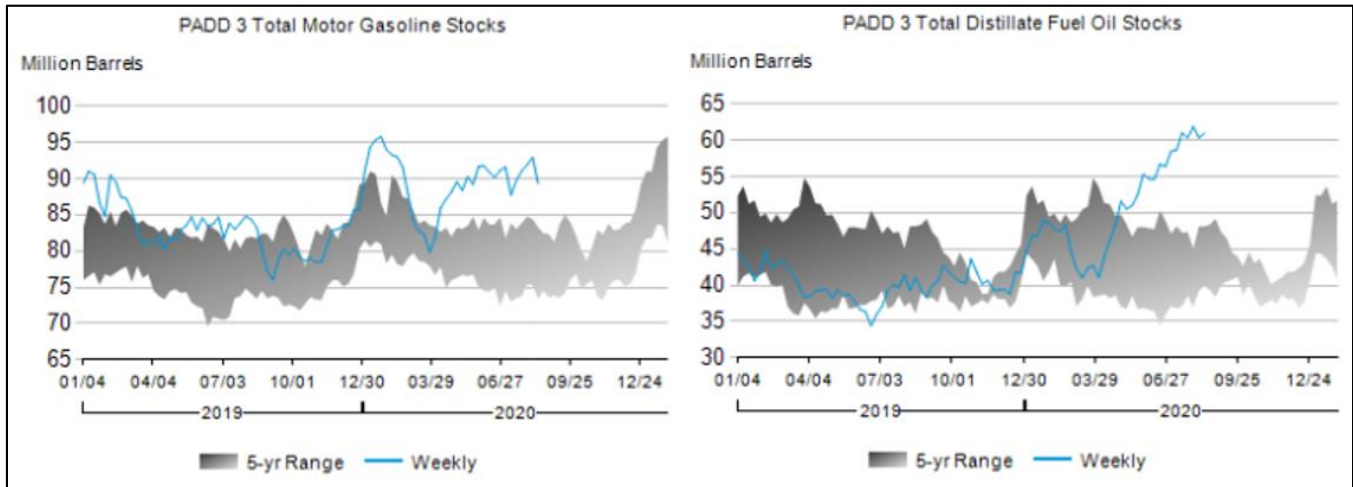


Source: [BSEE](https://www.bsee.gov)

- Murphy Oil, BHP, and Shell said they have begun reducing non-essential personnel on board some of their offshore assets. BP, Chevron, and Shell began production shutdowns on August 21. Equinor said that workers were evacuated from their Titan platform on August 23, and production was stopped. Statoil said that it had shut in production and evacuated crews from its offshore platforms on Aug. 22. ExxonMobil evacuated personnel from its Hoover platform.

FUEL STOCKS

- For the week ending on August 14, 2020, the Gulf Coast (PADD 3) had 89.3 million barrels of total gasoline stocks, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). This is 12% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year. For the week ending on August 14, the Gulf Coast had 60.9 million barrels of total distillate stocks, according to EIA. This is 38% higher than the 5-year average for this time of year.



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 8:00 AM EDT 08/25/2020				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Puerto Rico	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
	State of Emergency	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
Florida	State of Emergency	8/21	Until rescinded	Active
Mississippi	State of Emergency	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
Louisiana	State of Emergency	8/21	9/20	Active
	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/22	Until rescinded	Active
Texas	Presidential Emergency Declaration	8/23	Until rescinded	Active

Sources: State government and White House websites