



DOE's Response to the 2005 Hurricanes

INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND ENERGY RESTORATION



Overview

There were a record number of storms in the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, taking a severe toll on the Southeastern United States. DOE and the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) were instrumental in providing support during the hurricane season, most notably in response to hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma.

- There were a record 27 named storms in the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season
- There were 14 hurricanes in the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season



DOE's Response

Deployed Energy Emergency Responders

- DOE and OE deployed over 40 emergency response experts
- Emergency responders were deployed from DOE headquarters, DOE's Richland Field Office, DOE's HAMMER facility, Pacific Northwest Site Office, Bonneville Power Administration, Energy Information Agency, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the DOE Regional Field Office in Atlanta

Assisted with Fuel Distribution

- Worked with US EPA to issue fuel waivers for all 50 States
- Worked with US DOT to get waivers on transportation weight limits and driver's hours
- Worked with private industry to ensure continued fuel supply
- Coordinated with the Louisiana State Police to facilitate the delivery of diesel fuel to the Federal Reserve Bank of New Orleans and others
- Ensured that high-sulfur #2 diesel was provided to utility pole companies to secure the uninterrupted treatment of utility poles to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, which was a critical part of restoring electricity in the southeast
- Participated in the newly created Fuel Task Force, which was formed to help states and emergency responders deal with real or perceived shortages of diesel and/or gasoline needed for responder vehicles and other critical needs
- Worked with States to coordinate regional efforts and assess energy sector infrastructure



Allocated Emergency Response Resources

- Deployed staff to Emergency Support Function-12 (ESF-12) sites in the field and to regional and federal agencies
- Provided GIS coordinates to FEMA so that they could ship food and water to Entergy repair crews who were sleeping in their trucks in the Greater New Orleans area
- Helped coordinate the restoration of power for the Lake Livingston pump station which supplies Houston with water
- Coordinated efforts in arranging the Secretary of Energy to issue an order pursuant to section 202 (c) and (d) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) to allow Texas utilities to provide service to customers in another utility's service territory
- Activated the Visualization & Modeling Working Group, which was a team of experts from the National Laboratories, to produce a model of the expected effects and impacts of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma
 - The information from this working group was delivered to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal and state agencies for pre-disaster planning efforts
- Worked with State and local authorities at various locations to allow workers to gain access to critical energy facilities
 - Worked with the Department of Defense in making billeting available to personnel at Lake Charles energy facility in Louisiana



Assessed Oil and Gas Supplies and Impact to the Electricity Sector

- Participated in the newly formed Natural Gas Interagency Group to examine the near and long-term impacts of shortages in the nation's gas supply
 - Other participants included staff from the Department of Interior, the Energy Information Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Produced daily situation reports on energy systems affected by the storms
 - These reports were used by DOE, the White House, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation, State governments, industry and the media
- Worked closely with pipeline, terminal, and power companies to coordinate restoration efforts by establishing Collins Tank Farm in Mississippi as a priority for power restoration
 - The tank farm is a significant location for the Colonial and Plantation pipelines, two major pipelines on the East Coast

DOE's Emergency Support Role

DOE has the following ESF-12 responsibilities based on the National Response Plan:

- Deploy response teams to affected areas to assist in response and restoration efforts
- Monitor energy system damage and repair work and identify the supporting resources needed for their restoration
- Collect, assess, and provide information on energy supply, demand, and prices as well as contribute to situation and after-action reports
- Prioritize plans and actions for the restoration of energy during response and recovery actions
- Serve as the focal point for issues and policy decisions relating to energy in all response and restoration efforts

For more information, please visit www.oe.netl.doe.gov

