

# Piney Point Updates July 2021



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**CONTACT:** DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, [DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov)

## Piney Point Update - July 7, 2021

The Piney Point site received approximately 2.5 inches of rain overnight due to Tropical Storm Elsa. Today, DEP inspectors were onsite to assess the conditions at the site. Water levels in the containment areas remain within safe operational levels and the stormwater system at the site continues to operate properly as designed. There were no spills or overflows of the containment areas as a result of the storm.

Approximately 249 million gallons are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. The increase in volume since yesterday's report is due to rainfall from Tropical Storm Elsa. The temporary repair in the NGS-South compartment continues to function as designed.

DEP will continue its oversight of HRK's onsite water management activities to safely control water levels, respond to rainfall events and support water treatment. The department remains prepared to adjust water management strategies as needed through continuous monitoring of current and future weather conditions.

### Key status updates and response activities:

- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](http://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](http://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

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## **Piney Point Update - July 6, 2021**

DEP inspectors have been onsite throughout the weekend overseeing HRK staff's preparations for possible impacts from Tropical Storm Elsa. Staff onsite have worked to secure heavy equipment and water treatment components, in addition to adjusting water management levels in the ponds to ensure the site can endure hurricane force winds and rain. Additional pumps and generators have also been incorporated to safeguard against potential power outages.

Approximately 243 million gallons are currently held within the NGS-South compartment. The increase in volume since Friday's report is due to water transfer from connecting lined ponds for pre-storm site preparations. Water management will continue throughout the storm to ensure pond volumes stay within safe levels. Based on current rainfall projections from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of up to 6 inches, the site, including the NGS-South compartment, is expected to be able to accommodate the additional rainfall without incident.

At the present time, the temporary repair in the NGS-South compartment continues to function as designed. Monitoring will continue throughout the storm.

DEP's priority continues to be the protection of human health and safety and the minimization of any potential impacts to the environment. DEP remains committed to its stringent oversight of the activities at Piney Point.

### **Key status updates and response activities:**

- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](http://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate).

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## **Piney Point Update - July 2, 2021**

DEP remains committed to its stringent oversight of HRK's activities at Piney Point as they prepare the site for possible impacts from Hurricane Elsa. Department inspectors are onsite overseeing hurricane preparations as staff work to secure heavy equipment and water treatment elements, and adjust water management levels in the ponds to ensure the site can endure hurricane force winds and rain. Additional pumps and generators are also being incorporated to safeguard against potential power outages.

DEP's priority continues to be the protection of human health and safety and the minimization of any potential impacts to the environment.

### **Key status updates and response activities:**

- Approximately 215 million gallons are held within the NGS-South compartment. Pond level readings are expected to fluctuate due to a host of factors, including rainfall, water management activities and wind/associated waves in the pond.
- DEP continues to monitor and sample surrounding waterways following previous discharges. DEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#) details sampling locations and corresponding results to evaluate any environmental impact. Results will continue to be posted as soon as they are available.
- DEP is also working collaboratively with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and local governments to cover more area and collect more data. For a comprehensive view of all sampling in Tampa Bay related to Piney Point, visit TBEP's [interactive water quality dashboard](#).
- DEP continues working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Health to [monitor algal blooms and water quality](#). FWC continues to receive reports of fish kills in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. FWC is the lead agency on red tide and will continue to update conditions on their [website](#). For more information on red tide, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

Residents can find the latest information on the status of the site and response activities at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/PineyPointUpdate](#).

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