NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) **NWFO NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH **AUGUST** YEAR **2004**
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE Paul S. Trotter, Meteorologist-In-Charge DATE SEPTEBER 15, 2004

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

...High Pressure And Dry Weather Marked August 2004…

August was generally dry over the Lower Mississippi River Valley and coastal Mississippi, although isolated thunderstorms added a touch of excitement to the weather. Rainfall totals for August were generally below the normal for this time of year.

Hot temperatures during the first few days of the month were replaced by unseasonably cool temperatures after a cold front pushed through the region to the Gulf of Mexico. Scattered thunderstorms with the front produced areal average rainfall amounts of 0.8 inch to 1.0 inch in southeast Louisiana by August 8. These amounts were 0.3 to 0.6 inch below the area normals. Rainfall over coastal Mississippi averaged within 0.5 inch of the normal.

Between August 9 and August 16, the weather remained relatively cool and dry, as a cold front remained along the Gulf coast. By August 10, this front became positioned across the coastal parishes of Louisiana, and triggered scattered thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana. By August 12, another cold front pushed into the region. Areal average precipitation across southeast Louisiana was 50 percent of normal, though the east central parishes were slightly above the normal, especially from Bogalusa to Slidell. For southwest Mississippi, rainfall averages within 0.5 inch of the normal, while areal rain amounts over coastal Mississippi averaged around 0.8 inch below normal.

For the third week straight, temperatures and rainfall remained below the normal for this time of year over southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Scattered thunderstorms developed by August 19 and continued through August 22. Still, the precipitation across the southern portion of Louisiana was about 50 percent of normal. Areal average rainfall amounts ranged from 0.2 to 0.9 inch for all but coastal Mississippi, where areal rainfall averaged over 1.33 inch.

The weather pattern became more typical of summer by August 23, as high humidity and scattered thunderstorms returned over the region. By August 29, stronger thunderstorms produced locally heavy rainfall, with amounts over 2.0 inches recorded at several locations. Areal average rainfall totals generally remained below normal, ranging from 0.5 inch in southwest Mississippi to just over 1.0 inch in east-central Louisiana. For the period from August 25 to August 31, areal average rainfall over coastal Mississippi was 0.25 inch above the normal. By the end of August, high pressure settled over the region and dry conditions returned.

Rainfall totals for the month were well above the normal at some locations and well below the normal at others. The extreme departures for the region were as follows:

Location	**Amount**	**Departure**
Reserve	8.79	+3.44
Slidell	8.39	+2.54
Slidell WFO	7.91	+2.27
Denham Springs	2.01	-5.04
Franklin	2.67	-5.09
Morgan City	1.80	-5.60