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Session III: Terrorism and
Emergency Preparedness: U.S.
Case Study on Disaster Response



Richard J. Kilroy, Jr.
National Defense University

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Presentation Outline

- Case Study: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005)
 - Historical context of emergency response
 - Impact of 9/11 reorganization of federal agencies
 - Hurricane Katrina
 - Hurricane Rita
 - State and local response
 - Federal agency response
 - International response
 - Conclusion

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Historical Context

- Colonial legacies
 - State vs Federal Government powers
 - Article 10 – Reservation Clause
- Strong communities and volunteerism
 - Public safety and security a community good
 - Services funded by local taxes
 - Some services provided by volunteers (Red Cross, SA, etc.)
- Stafford Act (1985/2000)
 - Pertains to disaster response capability
 - State and local remedies first
 - Federal support only when requested



Impact of 9/11

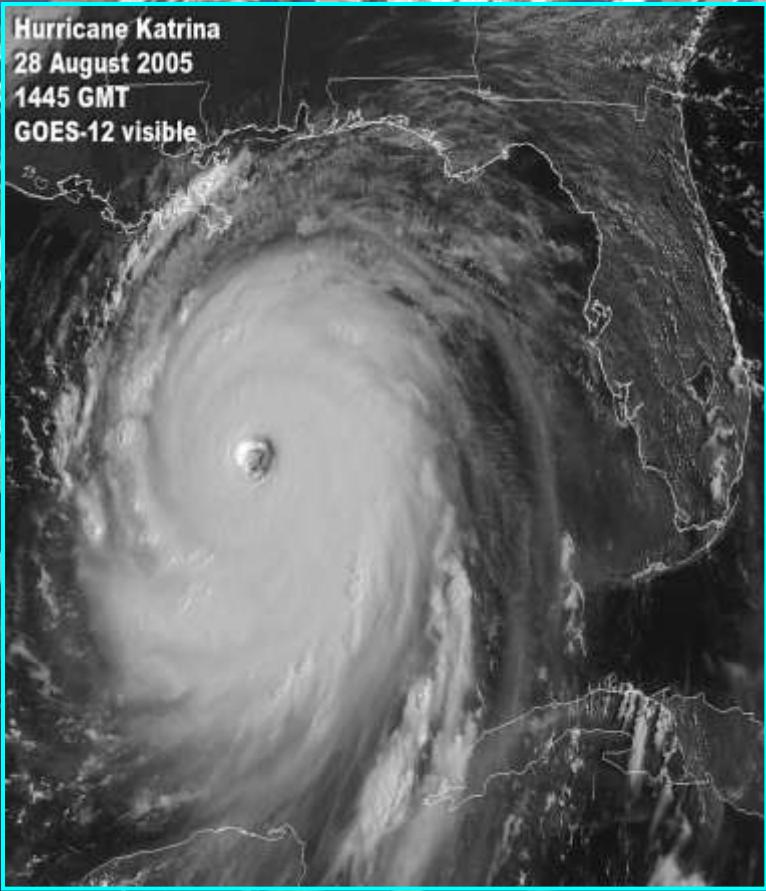
- Main focus on threat of terrorism
 - Reorganization of Federal Government to counter threat
 - FEMA placed under new Department of Homeland Security
 - Stand-up of a regional military command for Homeland Defense
 - Increase in federal grant money for countering terrorist threats
 - Loss of focus on emergency preparedness for disaster response

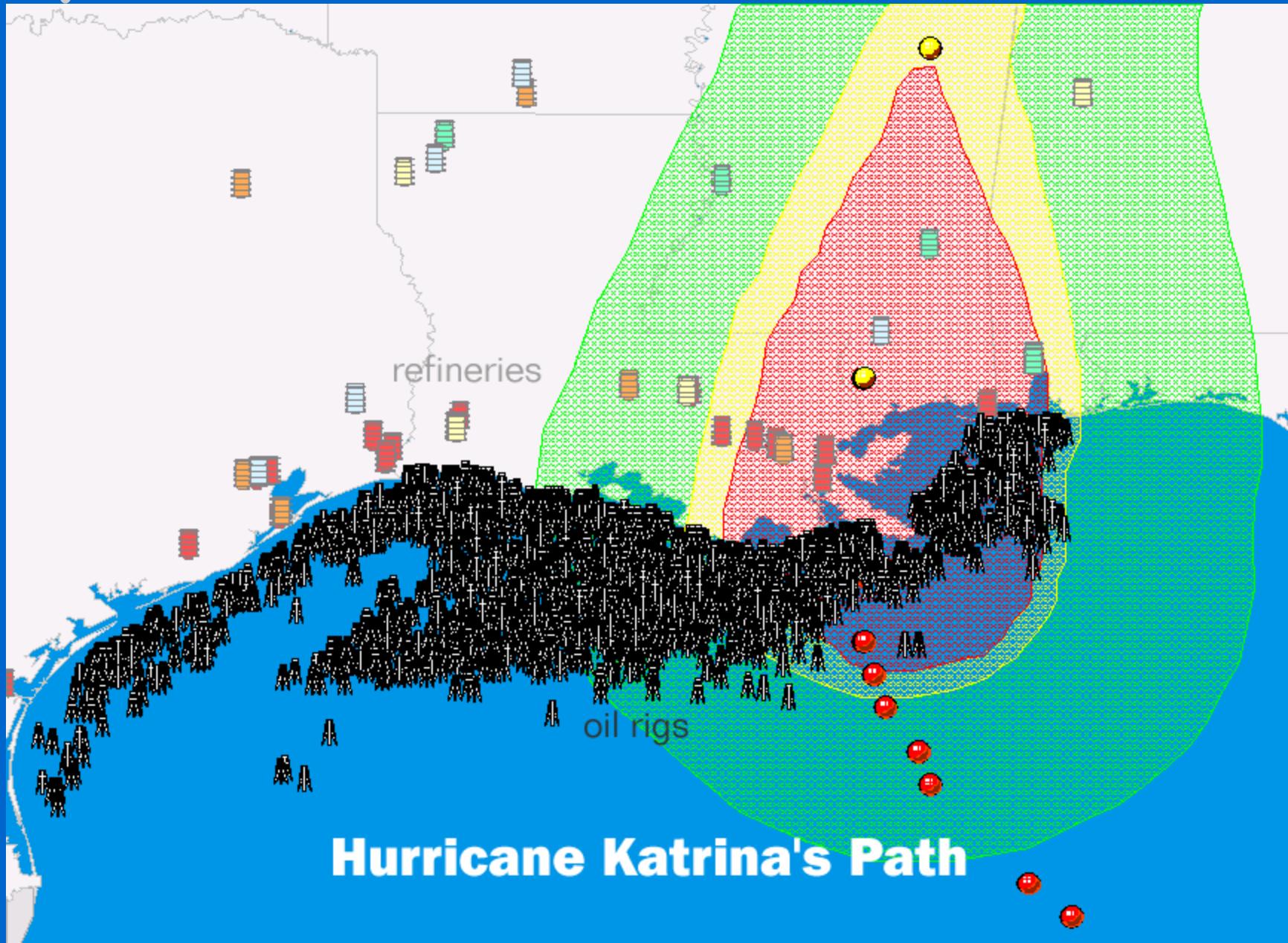
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Hurricane Katrina

- A “Perfect Storm”
 - Category V Hurricane (max winds of 175 MPH)
 - Major population center (New Orleans – 455 million)
 - Serious infrastructure problems (levees)
 - Parts of city below sea-level
 - Isolated communities
 - Demographics
 - Local and state politics played key role
 - First post 9/11 “test” of new Homeland Security system

Hurricane Katrina
28 August 2005
1445 GMT
GOES-12 visible



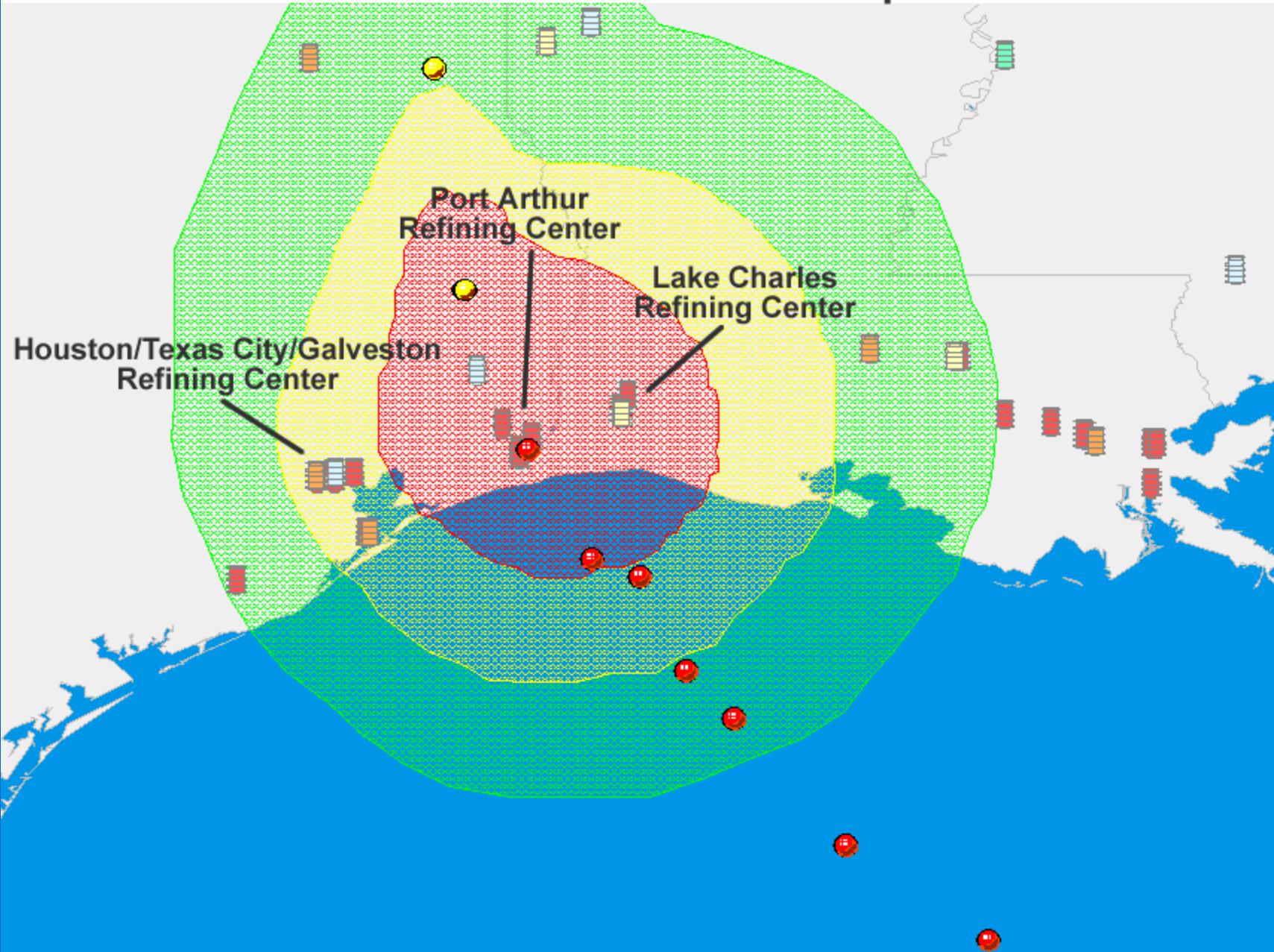


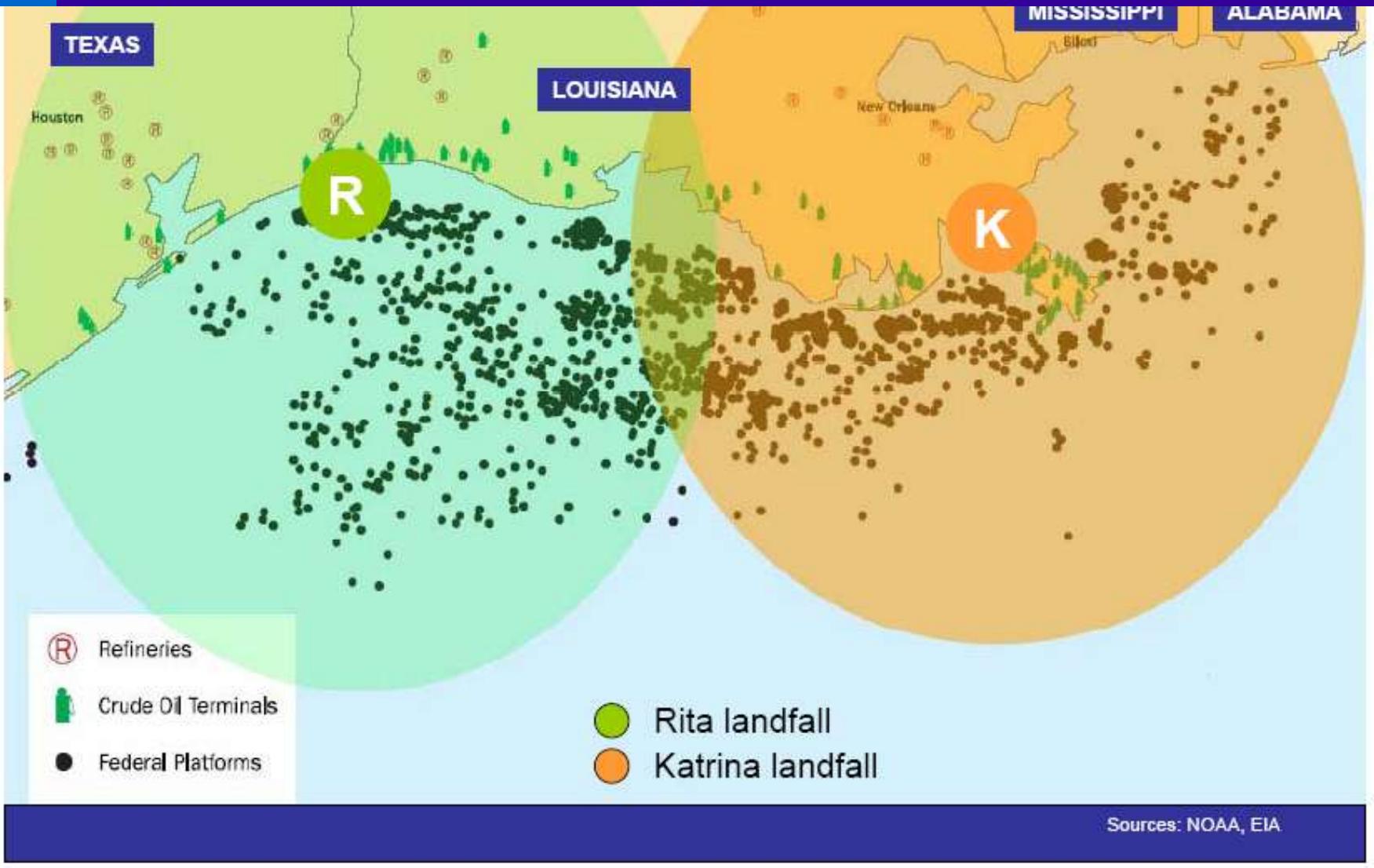
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Hurricane Rita

- The second shotgun blast within 30 days
 - Category V Hurricane (max winds of 175 MPH)
 - Landfall west of New Orleans
 - Impacted major oil processing facilities in Texas and Louisiana
 - Had a WMD effect on energy resources due to infrastructure locations
 - Increased federal engagement before the storm
 - President Bush at US Northern Command HQ

Hurricane Rita's Path at Landfall on September 24th



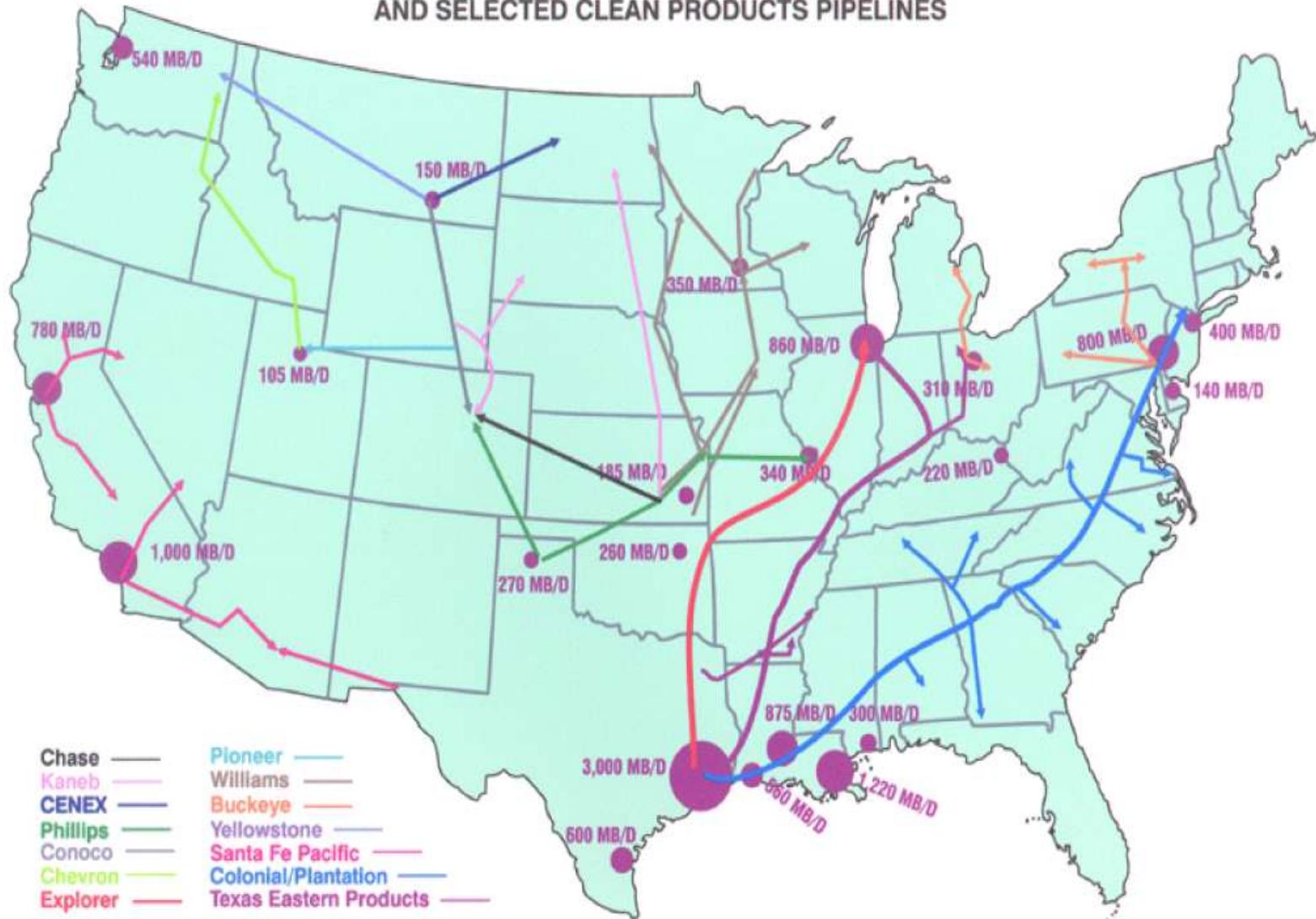




Gulf of Mexico Production

- The TX/LA Gulf of Mexico handles:
 - 30% of US crude oil production
 - 48% of US refining capacity
 - 61% of US crude imports
 - 20% of US natural gas production

UNITED STATES REFINING CENTERS⁽¹⁾ AND SELECTED CLEAN PRODUCTS PIPELINES



⁽¹⁾ Based on Crude Capacity from 12/21/98 Oil & Gas Journal.

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State and Local Response

- New Orleans mayor's response
 - Failed to take necessary precautions
 - Mandatory evacuation too late
 - Superdome housed many stranded residents, mostly minorities (30,000)
 - Police abandoned their posts to help their families
 - Loss of local control over public safety and security
- Louisiana governor's response
 - Slow to assess the severity of the situation
 - Did not immediately request federal support
 - Did activate 40,000 National Guard troops

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Federal Agency Response

- Criticism of FEMA Director Brown's role
 - Not proactive but reactive
 - Waiting for the state to articulate needs
- Criticism of DHS Secretary Chertoff's role
 - Late declaration of “incident of national significance”
 - Lack of a coordinated federal relief response
- Proactive military response
 - USCG prepositioned ships and helicopters – ADM Allen
 - USNORTHCOM activated support role – LTG Honoré



International Response

- Canada's support
 - “We knew you would be there for us”
 - Military dispatched before GOC decision to provide aid
 - Evacuation, search and rescue, clean-up
- Mexico's support
 - Tested new regional security relationships
 - Primary support to displaced persons: food, medical, etc.
- Other's support
 - Cuba offered to send 1600 medical personnel – not accepted

Canada's Response



Mexico's Response



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Conclusion

- Economic and social impact – WMD effect
 - 5 Gulf coast states impacted (LA, TX, MS, AL, FL)
 - Devastated New Orleans (500k before/300k after)
 - 1500 casualties (half of 9/11)
 - Significant loss of oil refinement and supplies
- Federal response
 - FEMA criticized - too slow to arrive, loss of focus on natural disasters after 9/11
 - USG argued Stafford Act still takes precedence
 - Increased expectation of federal role in disaster response