IRIS

HURRICANE

Client

Primoris Renewable Group

Location

Franklinton, LA

Project Size

13MW

Module

First Solar Series 6

Racking

Nevados All Terrain Tracker

Benefits for construction

Wind gusts over

90MPH

0%

Structural Damage

100%

Availability Following Wind Event

> As one of the nation's largest independent solar power produced (IPPs), DESRI understands the impact that severe weather can have on solar project operations. Our Nevados trackers experienced a direct hit from a Cat. 3 hurricane and performed very well; they did not sustain any structural failure and were 100% available almost immediately after the storm.
>
> **Chris Clevenger**
>
> Chief Operation Officer D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI).

Project Description

In August 2021, a category 3 hurricane made landfall on the state of Louisiana devastating communities and causing massive infrastructure damage. the Louisiana solar site took a direct hit and all racking equipment in the vicinity was put to the test. Having multiple racking products installed on one site provided unique insight into various racking technologies and their solutions in both designing for high wind regions, and managing high wind events.

Nevados Value

The Nevados ATT experienced high winds for many hours with no structural damage. Wind speeds at the site were measured and analyzed showing wind gusts of over 90MPH. The Nevados standard racking design is inherently riding with integrated friction dampers at every foundation. This enables unparralled stability with zero unreliable traditional external dampers, and provided incredible resilience to wind dynamics. At the time of the hurricane, full commissioning had not yet been completed, and some rows were not positioned at Nevados standard stow angle of 60 deg. Even still, the Nevados structure easily weathered the storm, while other trackers in the area, which did not have the same structural rigidity and damping to combat wind dynamics, sustained significant damage.