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Willis Research Network
Hurricane Commentary

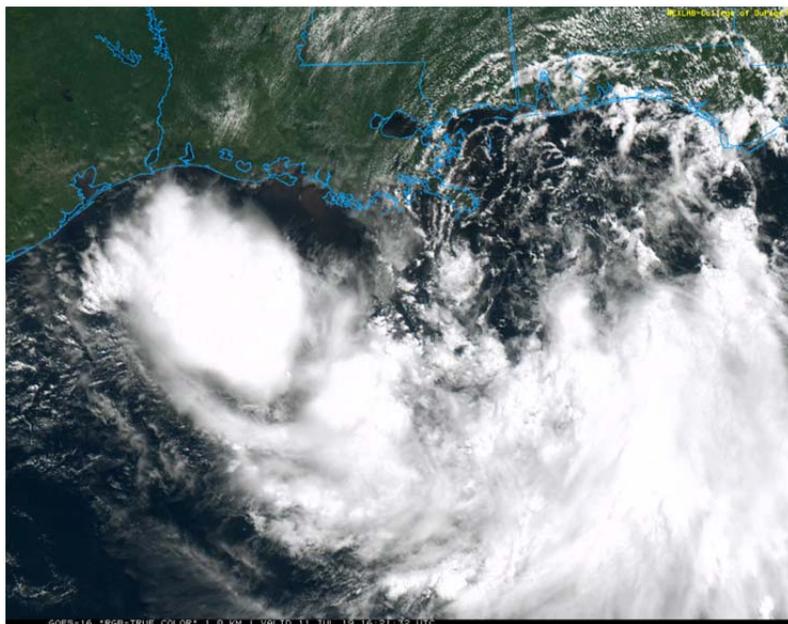
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Tropical Storm Barry

Executive Summary

Barry continues to strengthen in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The highest chance of landfall is for anywhere along the Louisiana coast when peak winds are expected at tropical storm or hurricane category 1 strength. Severe flooding is likely for parts of southern Louisiana into the weekend.

BARRY	
Date/Time	10am CDT Jul 11, 2019
Location	27.8N, 88.7W
Windspeed/Pressure	40mph, 1005mb
Speed/Direction	5mph W



Forecast Summary

BARRY finally made it to Tropical Storm status. This much-anticipated strengthening was held back by the ragged, disorganized structure of the pre-storm clumps of thunderstorms. A storm can only strengthen when the thunderstorm activity aligns with the circulation. This process has started and the storm continues to strengthen.

The Gulf of Mexico is much warmer than normal for early/mid July. BARRY will feed off this energy and strengthen over the next 48 hours before landfall. The exact future track of BARRY is rather uncertain because track guidance from BARRY's surrounding flow is weak. But a gradual turning northward towards the coast is expected. The ultimate landfall location will depend on how quickly this turning occurs. Figure 1 indicates a potential landfall anywhere along the Louisiana coast or even Mississippi.

While winds are expected to be at high-end tropical storm or hurricane category 1 strength at landfall, the biggest threat is water. Downtown New Orleans already received over 10 inches of rain this week from intense thunderstorms associated with the pre-storm circulation.

This early-season storm has entered the picture while the Mississippi River remains near flood-stage following the U.S.'s 12-month stretch of record-breaking precipitation. The three flood drivers of high river levels, localized flash flooding and BARRY's storm surge will converge to produce a highly unusual and dangerous flood scenario for Louisiana and New Orleans in particular. BARRY's slow track inland will only make matters worse by prolonging the heavy rains and high coastal water levels.

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