

New Mexico's WARN Program Status Update

The Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) is a voluntary program with the primary goal of:

Establishing a statewide voluntary network that assists member water and wastewater utilities to help other member utilities respond to an emergency. The network will facilitate moving personnel, equipment and materials to a system requesting assistance.

The State of New Mexico, through the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau, is assisting in the implementation of the program.

History

1. In July of 2007, AWWA hosted a one-day workshop and invited water systems, water and wastewater agencies and emergency response personnel from 6 states. It was designed to give water and wastewater systems in each state information and incentives to set up statewide WARNs
2. First initial Steering Committee meeting October '07 – established the NM WARN Executive Committee, which was tasked with researching agreements, WARN information and making proposals to the Steering Committee (basically the work group).
3. Executive Committee has met four times since.

WARN Status

1. Water systems serving >3300 have been notified of progress through the e-mailing of meeting minutes.
2. The mutual aid agreement has been finalized. The Executive Committee has made final changes to the draft proposal.
3. A Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2008 (after the DWAG meeting).
4. They will review, discuss and vote to approve this agreement.

Future Steps

1. The mutual aid agreement will be sent to all CWSs serving >3300 people for attorney review. It will also be posted on the NMED/DWB, NMRWA and other websites for smaller systems to review and comment. Attorneys will have three months to review and comment.
 2. Website Funding – funding is needed to assist in the development of a host web site.
 3. Website Development - the website will contain all the details and information necessary to implement the NM WARN.
 - A. Systems will be able to read and execute the agreement and join.
 - B. MAAOP – Mutual Aid/Assistance Operational Plan: Will contain all of the details about how the WARN works.
 - C. Track incidents (requesting utility, responding utilities, progress, problems, etc.).
 - D. Resource typing – Creates teams or group resource sheets rather than each member posting available resources, personnel, etc. Initially, the goal is to have 2-3 larger water utilities execute the agreement and become members. This will be the official beginning of the NM WARN. (This step can occur before the website and policies are complete).
- Our goal is to have this completed by Dec. 31, 2008.
6. Encouragement of all NM CWSs to join the WARN network and become members of the NM WARN.

Note: If a water system wants to review and comment on the approved, draft agreement, please contact:

Jerry Lewis
NMED/DWB
(505) 222-9534
jerome.lewis@state.nm.us

The approved draft agreement will be posted on the NMED/DWB website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/security/index.htm> .