



Limiting Disaster Consequences

There are certain things in life that we have absolutely no control over: getting older, children growing up, the cost of gasoline and, most notably, the weather. The tumultuous rains and resultant flooding in June of this year are a perfect example of this.

The focus of this issue of *Clearwaters* is on disaster preparedness. One of the primary goals of this issue is to present NYWEA members with recent lessons learned so that

potential future impacts as a result of severe weather conditions, can be limited.

Many of us felt powerless in the wake of the flood events in June 2006 (not to mention Hurricane Katrina in 2005). NYWEA's reaction to this year's event was to team up with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on developing an e-mail outreach to all members asking for equipment and expertise to help our members get back to full operational status at their respective utilities. We learned from the experience that immediate response is critical as by the time many members volunteered to assist, conditions already were somewhat stabilized. Many thanks to the following individuals, utilities and companies that offered their assistance to the affected plants in June:

- James Abraham, Village of Victor**
- Fred Doyle, Stamford, NY**
- Dick Elander, Onondaga County Water Environment Protection**
- David Lukas, Monroe County**
- Bill Richardson, YSI, Inc.**
- Vincent Sapienza, New York City Department of Environmental Protection**
- Keneck Skibinski, Herkimer County Sewer District**
- Jeff Soule, City of Ithaca**
- Gale Wolfe, Chemung County**
- Roy Zimmerman, Suffolk County**

NYWEA's Program Committee further responded by devoting an entire session to disaster preparedness at the upcoming 79th Annual Meeting on February 6, 2007. The NYWEA Operator Training Task Force is looking into holding emergency management workshops for operations personnel in 2007.

Recent NYWEA Board Action Items

The following resolutions were approved by the board on November 9, 2006.

Resolution 2006-26

Election of Vice President-Elect, Thomas J. Whetham

Resolution 2006-27

Creation of Student Chapter Service Award

Resolution 2006-28

Creation of Outstanding Student Service Award

Resolution 2006-29 – Approval of Awards:

Young Professional Award – David Cross

Environmental Engineer Award – James Gresens, P.E.

Every aspect of the environment is affected by severe weather, managing Mother Nature's impact is fundamental. I see this issue as an initial step in gathering our collective expertise so that we can all learn together.

Just as my family recently fulfilled my son's Boy Scout requirement to perform an evacuation drill in our home, advance planning for all of us (both personally and professionally) is critical to feeling some level of control when responding to an emergency. It is something we all need to take the time to do.

Many thanks to Sandy Lizlovs of NYSDEC-Region 7 for her insight and leadership in the coordination of this issue of *Clearwaters*.

As we prepare for the future and head into the year 2007, the leadership of the NYWEA recently held a strategic planning session to outline the top priorities for the organization covering the next five years.

Strategic Plan – Top Initiatives

- Public Outreach
- Strengthened Regulatory/Legislative Influence
- Low Cost Training Programs
- Name Recognition

Tom Whetham, NYWEA's 2007 Vice President-Elect, will chair the task force to map out the future activities for the Association for the period 2007-2011.

Here's wishing you all a safe and enjoyable winter season!

Patricia Cerro-Reehil
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Two Important Disaster Contacts:

FEMA: 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)
(TTY: 1-800-462-7585); Hours: 8 am-8 pm daily

New York State: 1-888-7-NYS-AID
(1-888-769-7243), (TTY: NYS Relay 711)

Individual & Family Grant Program –
Hours: 8 am-8 pm, Mon-Fri; 8 am-8 pm, Sat-Sun

Assistance applications can be filed online at www.fema.gov and www.labor.state.ny.us

2006 Flood Presidential Major Disaster Declarations

Public Assistance (19 counties):

Broome	Herkimer	Schoharie
Chenango	Madison	Sullivan
Cortland	Montgomery	Tioga
Delaware	Oneida	Tompkins
Fulton	Otsego	Ulster
Greene	Rensselaer	
Hamilton	Schenectady	

Individual Assistance (12 counties):

Broome	Montgomery	Schoharie
Chenango	Oneida	Sullivan
Delaware	Orange	Tioga
Herkimer	Otsego	Ulster