



New York Becomes a “WARN” State

A Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) is a network of utilities helping other utilities to respond to and recover from emergencies. The purpose of WARN is to provide a method whereby water/wastewater utilities that have sustained or anticipate damages from natural or human-caused incidents can provide and receive emergency aid and assistance. This assistance can be in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and other associated services as necessary from other water/wastewater utilities. The objective is to provide rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to restore the critical operations of the affected water/wastewater utility.

The backbone of the WARN concept is the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. It is in this agreement that participating utilities agree upon network



activation, reimbursement, liability and other issues. Participation is voluntary; there is no obligation to respond, and there is no direct cost to become a member of the network.

The WARN framework provides a forum for establishing and maintaining emergency contacts. WARN provides expedited access to specialized resources needed to respond to and recover from emergencies that disrupt water/wastewater utilities and facilitate training that specifically focuses on the

exchange of resources during an emergency.

Events such as 9/11, the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the 1997 Red River flood and, more recently, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, identified a need for water and wastewater utilities to create intrastate mutual aid and assistance programs because:

- Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations.
- Government response agencies and other critical infrastructure rely on water supplies.
- Utilities must provide their own support in the immediate aftermath of an incident, as state and federal resources will not likely be available or deployed for up to 72 hours.
- Large events impact regional areas, making response from adjacent utilities impractical.
- Disasters impact utility employees and their families, creating greater need for relief.
- Agreements must be established and in place prior to an incident for federal reimbursement eligibility.
- Engagement in mutual aid/assistance supports

WARN

Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Promote and support statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for water and wastewater utilities

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Operator Facts

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to inform wastewater operators about various operational practices, problem-solving approaches, technical developments and certification and training issues.

The bulletin is produced by:
Bureau of Water
Compliance Programs,
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Section
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Editor

You are invited to submit technical articles or other information of interest to operators for publication in *Operator Facts*.

Be sure to notify us of a change of address if you wish to continue to receive *Operator Facts* and training notices. Please include your certificate number.

The mention of any product or listing of any company's seminar is not an endorsement by this department.

Send all correspondence to:
Operator Facts
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625 Broadway,
Albany, NY 12233-3506
Phone 518-402-8177 or fax 518-402-8082

Visit our webpage at:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html



Summer 2009 Issue

James Praznik



Jim Praznik (center) with his NYSDEC Region 6 Environmental Service Award. Pictured with Jim are Jim Doyle, NYSDEC (left); Bruce Clifford and Bill Baynes, City of Rome; Jim Praznik; Ken Skibinski, Herkimer County; and Lou Langione, Village of Waterville

FOAS would like to congratulate James Praznik on his long service to the wastewater community. Jim recently retired as the Water Resource Chemist for the Oneida County Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control. He served Oneida County as the Laboratory Director, Pretreatment Program Manager, Process Control Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department. Through his 42 years of public service and many responsibilities, Jim was able to mentor many in the wastewater field. The above photograph shows just a few of the operators and environmental professionals he mentored throughout his long career.

Operator Awards

Each year, the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) honors wastewater treatment plant and collection system operators. NYWEA gives the Uhl T. Mann Award to individuals for excellence in treatment plant operations and maintenance. The Uhl T. Mann awards are in the following plant-flow categories: 0-0.5 mgd, 0.6-1.0 mgd, 1.1-10 mgd, 10.1-50 mgd and >50 mgd. The Collection System Operator Award recognizes an individual for an outstanding contribution to the evaluation, rehabilitation, design or construction of collection facilities.

If you know of an operator or individual who is deserving of an award, please visit NYWEA's award website, www.nywea.org/awards/

Operator Certification Forms

Operator certification and certificate renewal forms have changed during the last few years. Please note that the information we are requesting when renewing your certificate has changed. A couple of the changes are that your social security number is no longer required, and we want to know whether you are a chief operator. To obtain a new copy of the certificate renewal form, visit www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/renewalapp.pdf

Additional certification forms are available from our webpage, www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8707.html

Belt Press for Sale

The Village of Old Forge is selling a half-meter belt press. The press was installed in 1982 and taken out of service in 1993. Included in the sale are two polymer feed pumps, a control panel and a bucket elevator. Contact Ted Riehle at 315 369-6280 for more information.

- 1 – KS Kompress Belt Filter Press
Model: GMD – 0.5/1
Dimensions: 15'6"L x 4'7"W x 8'7"H
Wt: 8,500 lbs
 - 1 – KS Kompress Control Panel
3 Phase 480V Nema Type 4
Dimensions: 72"H x 37"W x 18"D
Wt: 1,500 lbs
 - 2 – BIF Series 1700 Diaphragm Metering Pumps
 - 1 – Set of New Belts for Press
 - 1 – New Belt for Elevator
- Buyer is to arrange removal of all equipment.

Renewal Training & Upcoming Meetings

September 1-2, 2009
Advanced Activated Sludge

Co-sponsored by NYWEA
Location: Alexandria Bay Municipal Complex, Alexandria Bay, NY
Cost: \$70
Contact Hours: 12
Contact: Tim Miller @ 518-402-8106 or tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

September 24, 2009

Lift Stations
NEIWPC
Location: Onondaga County Metro Plant
Syracuse, NY
Cost: TBD
Contact Hours: 6
Contact: Tim Miller @ 518-402-8106 or tjmiller@gw.dec.state.ny.us or [NEIWPC @ 978-323-7929](mailto:NEIWPC@978-323-7929) or training@neiwpc.org

Proper Disposal of Medications

NYSDEC has an initiative to reduce the growing presence of pharmaceuticals in water bodies. The "Don't Flush Your Drugs" campaign was developed to raise public awareness and explain the proper disposal of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs. More information on the campaign is available at the website www.dontflushyourdrugs.net



NYWEA, Inc.
525 Plum Street, Suite 102
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-422-7811
e-mail: mail@nywea.org
www.nywea.org

September 14-15, 2009
2009 Watershed Science & Technical Conference
Location: Hotel Thayer, West Point, New York, NY

September 29, 2009
Basic Panel on Wastewater for Local and Elected Representatives
Location: Lake Placid, NY
Cost: Free
Contact Hours: 0

November 4, 2009
Advanced Panel on Wastewater for Local and Elected Representatives
Location: NYSDEC Headquarters, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY
Cost: Free
Contact Hours: 0



PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Preventive maintenance (PM) is critical to the sustainability of a wastewater treatment plant and collection system performance. A good program is an integrated system for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling maintenance work. NYSDEC has recognized the importance of a PM program through regulations covering the operations of a wastewater treatment facility in accordance with a SPDES permit (6NYCRR Part 750-2). This regulation contains a section

treatment and control used to achieve compliance with the SPDES permit. The regulation defines critical facilities as those that contain process equipment that is essential for proper operation and necessary to achieve compliance with the applicable SPDES permit effluent limits. This means that not only the equipment, but also buildings that house the equipment, must be included in the program.

A well-developed PM program is an integrated system for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling maintenance work. Develop a program with the goals to:

- Increase equipment reliability.
- Minimize process interruptions and reduce downtime thereby increasing permit compliance.
- Control maintenance costs.
- Increase employee productivity and improve scheduling of work assignments to better utilize the available workforce.
- Improve plant safety.
- Avoid excessive maintenance.
- Keep accurate records to establish equipment breakdown frequencies.
- Establish cost records to highlight excessive costs and to make equipment repair or replacement decisions based on solid facts.
- Provide better conservation of assets by eliminating premature equipment replacement.
- Minimize large-scale repairs.
- Improve plant performance through better overall equipment condition and reliability.
- Control availability of spare parts and replacement parts.
- Assure that proper tools and equipment are available for maintenance work.

Developing a new or updating a current PM program requires the identification of all critical facilities and equipment (assets). Therefore, an inventory of all treatment plant and collection system equipment and facilities is necessary. Link the identified assets to the critical facilities through a numbering system. Plus, link the equipment or assets numbering system to the spare parts inventory system. This inventory system catalogs spare parts (location and number) and references/links them to the equipment-numbering system. The catalog identifies parts available on-site at all times, parts available on short notice and their supplier and parts requiring long lead times.



Poor Maintenance - Use of channel locks to hold in the packing of a return sludge pump, instead of performing required repairs. Sludge covered the floor, creating a health and safety concern.

(6NYCRR Part 750-2.8(a)(2)) requiring permittees to have a preventive/corrective maintenance program. A PM program must address all installed critical facilities and systems of

Meeting these goals enables a facility to realize the benefits of a PM program, including improved treatment plant performance, safer operations and lower costs.

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PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

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An effective PM program that accomplishes the goals listed above is not a single document. This program can be manual or electronic, but it must include reference facility operation and

PM program plus programs on proper equipment safety and maintenance procedures.

A comprehensive PM program is a tool that helps keep a treatment plant operating well and

at lower costs. The programs achieve lower costs optimizing staff resources through scheduling of maintenance work, reducing emergency repairs, and providing long-term planning resources.

Resources available for long-term planning

include equipment maintenance and replacement schedules. This information provides the tools to develop annual maintenance budgets and staffing plans plus long-term planning for equipment replacement. The PM program has an inventory of all the facility's equipment or assets, which can serve as a starting point for development of a facility-wide asset-management plan.

References:

1. Maintenance Management Systems for Municipal Wastewater Facilities, MO-7, October 1973, USEPA, 430/9-74-004.

2. Federal Register, Volume 43, Number 188, Wednesday, September 27, 1978.
3. Plant maintenance Program, Manual of Practice - OM-3, 1982, Water Pollution Control Federation.
4. Operation of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants, Manual of Practice - MOP 11, 2007, Water Environment Federation.
5. Small Wastewater System Operation and Maintenance, First Edition, Volume 1, 1997, California State University, Sacramento, Office of Water Programs.
6. Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Sixth Edition, Volume II, 2003, California State University, Sacramento, Office of Water Programs.
7. Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Collection Systems, Fifth Edition, Volume II, 2003, California State University, Sacramento, Office of Water Programs.



Photo of a wall chart and card system to track maintenance at a smaller wastewater treatment plant.

maintenance manuals, equipment manuals and manufacturer's maintenance procedures and recommendations. The program must also be able to identify equipment, inventory spare parts, safety procedures, and tools required to perform maintenance and keep records of past equipment service and maintenance. Additional features include maintenance scheduling such that sufficient staff with the necessary experience are available, and the maintenance does not affect plant performance. Finally, the program must include a training component. The training component outlines training programs on using the



Congratulations

To Our New Certified Operators

Grade 1

Kurt R Mansfield	Westchester
Gregory A O'Connor	Nassau
Patrick W O'Connor	Jefferson
Kenneth K Roberts	Westchester
Eric K Sieber	Columbia
Lucas J Silverstein	New York City
Michael F Smith	St. Lawrence
Gregory T Vikse	New York City

Grade 1A

Jesse K Haroldson	Delaware
Aubrey D Huntington	Warren

Grade 2

James V Crandall	Chenango
Luke D Dague	Warren
Michael T Debonis	Broome
Thomas W Hall	Delaware
Gregory D Lisk	Schuyler
Zachary B Mulcahy	Broome
Brian O'Connor	Nassau
John E Schmidt	Broome
William G Sherrard	Nassau
Kyle S Williams	Orange

Grade 2A

Brendan Barry	Putnam
Troy G Bennett	Livingston
Thomas R Campbell	Nassau
Craig A Catalano	Essex
Wilson V Eagleson IV	Clinton
Aaron T Earsing	Niagara
Henry O N Emembolu	Westchester
Jesse K Haroldson	Delaware
Matthew R Ilardi	New York City
James J Irwin	Chautauqua
Vance M Jones	Albany
Van S Kohler	Albany
Bradley A Lang	Genesee
Dustin R Martin	Essex
Brian S McCall	Cortland
Joseph M McCann	Erie
Terry G Mehlenbacher	Steuben
Daniel C Merrills	Rensselaer
Joseph M Michaniw	Albany
Joshua M Miller	Greene
Shane P Nordberg	Delaware
Mario Piarulli	Westchester
Wayne M Raymond	Broome
Ryan J Rysinger	Sullivan
Timothy A Sharlow	St. Lawrence
Michael K Shaver	Livingston

Grade 2A (continued)

Paul M Sickler	Nassau
Anthony C Stadnyk	Monroe
Earl C Swartwout, III	Delaware
Joseph F Terminelli	St. Lawrence
Gregory T Vikse	New York City
Jeffrey P Wescott	Greene
David Anthony White	Westchester
Richard W Wright	St. Lawrence

Grade 3

Philip R Friedle, Jr	Orange
Richard J Furiosi	Broome
Timothy P Gray	Ontario



Grade 3A

Sammy Andalib	New York City
David A Burt	Schuyler
Christopher M Carney	Oneida
Cynthia J Ceconello	Orange
Robert J Crisdell	Suffolk
Alvin H Montana II	Herkimer
Bradley L Moore	Out Of State
Ernest Muller, III	Nassau
Jimmy A Narvaez	New York City
Sean D Raynor	Chautauqua
James J Scahill	Greene
Myron J Thurston II	Madison
Robert J Yaggle	Montgomery

Grade 4

Philip B Grayson	Broome
Donald E Raymond	Broome

Grade 4A

Thomas D Ambrosino Jr	Saratoga
Brad F Camp	Cattaraugus
George H Giambrone	Erie
Carl D Horne	Erie
Wayne C LaVair	Franklin
Scott E Tozier	Wayne

ABC Exam Statistics (October 2008 – May 2009)

Grade	% Passing	# Exams	Ave Score
1	44	18	71
1A	67	3	77
2	52	21	70
2A	61	54	72
3	50	8	67
3A	25	51	62
4	33	3	66
4A	25	28	65

Updates to the Certification Course Schedule

Basic Operations Course

Adirondack Community College
November 3-December 8, 2009

Activated Sludge Course

Adirondack Community College
September 22–October 22, 2009

The complete schedule of certification courses, providers and contact information is available at the FOAS webpage www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23818.html

Aeration Equipment for Sale

Four (4) Aqua - Aerobics retrievable aeration tube diffuser racks. Equipment includes;

- Diffuser racks with 200 tube membrane diffusers, 25 dual legs on each rack (qty. 50) x 4 racks
- Rubber aeration hoses with valves
- Wall-mounted rack support with winches

Contact John Tennier for more information at 518-329-5113 or John_Tennier@SWM-US.COM

WARN

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Department of Homeland Security requirements for compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Representatives from New York attended a workshop jointly sponsored by the American Water Works Association and the EPA in

March 2007 in Cleveland, Ohio. New York formed a steering committee, following that meeting, which reached agreement on mutual aid for the state in October 2007.

At a joint AWWA/NYWEA Symposium in November 2007, the steering committee

introduced the concept, generating considerable interest and support. Water and wastewater systems have begun to sign the agreement, and the NYWARN is well on its way to becoming a functional tool for the water and wastewater industry. See www.nywarn.org for more information.

AWWA Introduces Two Math Books for Operator Certification Exams

- **Math for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Grades 1 and 2**, by John Giorgi, AWWA Order Number: 20662
- **Math for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Grades 3 and 4**, by John Giorgi, AWWA Order Number: 20663

AWWA offers two study guides, written by John Giorgi, to provide students and operators with a focused way to prepare for the many challenging math problems on the certification exams. The guides use actual certification exam questions to develop the many problems. The books also serve as easy reference guides to common calculations wastewater operators encounter every day on the job.

Each book begins by explaining basic math concepts such as significant figures and conversion factors. The guides present wastewater problems with easily followed steps and comments to facilitate greater understanding. Answers immediately follow each problem, along with detailed formulas. Cover up the answers while you figure each equation, and then compare the results. The

more problems you do, the more comfortable you will become and the more prepared you will be to pass your wastewater treatment certification exam.

Following each grade level chapter are sample tests to help you determine your strengths and weaknesses for further study. Each test includes randomly chosen problems from the previous chapter. The guides include test solutions after each test.

Each book offers hundreds of math problems and solutions covering the full spectrum of wastewater treatment operations.

Books are available from AWWA at www.awwa.org/bookstore, or call 1-800-926-7337.

Job Opportunity

Certified Operator, Grade 3 or Grade 4 (Wastewater)
Niagara Falls Water Board, Niagara Falls, NY

Certified Operator wanted for safe and efficient operation of a physical/chemical treatment plant averaging 30 MGD flows.

Candidate must possess a NYS Grade 3 or Grade 4 wastewater certification. The salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. This is a New York State Civil Service position, and permanent appointment would be subject to passing a Civil Service examination.

Interested individuals should send a resume to Niagara Falls Water Board, c/o Doug Taylor, 5815 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14304, e-mail dtaylor@nfwb.org, or fax 716-283-9748



Final Notice - Join Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator E-mail Group Now

Starting in August 2009, the primary method of sending out all DEC operator training notices, *What's Going On* and *Operator Facts* will be by e-mail, rather than U.S. mail. We currently only have **430** certified operators signed up for e-mail notification (there are more than 3,000 active certified operators in the state). We want everyone to be aware of the training opportunities in their area. To sign up for e-mail notification, go the webpage:

<http://lists.dec.state.ny.us/mailman/listinfo/wwtpcertifiedoperators>

If you don't have access to e-mail, we will send a paper copy **only** if you return the slip below. If we do not receive the slip, we will assume that you have signed up for e-mail notification or are no longer interested in receiving training and certification information. In either case, you will continue to get your new blue card by regular mail, so be sure to keep your mailing address current. If you responded to our previous mailing either by joining the e-mail group or by returning the slip below, please disregard this notice.

I do not have e-mail and want to continue to receive paper notification. 

Name: _____

Wastewater Certification Number: _____

Return to: NYSDEC
Facility Operations Assistance Section
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-3506

Visit FOAS' Webpage:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8464.html

New York State DEC
Facility Operations Assistance Section
625 Broadway - 4th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-3506

