



Water Utility Resilience Program – A New Technical Assistance Opportunity

Preparing for climate related impacts on water facilities is a growing area of need for drinking water and wastewater operators; navigating through the potential impacts and resources available to address those impacts can seem overwhelming. In order to assist municipalities navigate this emerging issue, MassDEP has established a new technical assistance program, the Water Utility Resilience Program. This program is geared towards helping drinking water and wastewater utilities enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure in the face of severe and hazardous weather events related to a changing climate.

Climate related events may range from sea level rise and storm surge to inland flooding, blizzards and drought, while non-climate factors such as increased demand for growing populations and aging infrastructure compound the issues. MassDEP's goal is to provide the assistance drinking water and wastewater utilities deem necessary in their efforts to continue supplying safe drinking water and reliable wastewater services to the public now, and into the future.

Assistance provided through this program will include:

- identifying helpful and practical resiliency resources,
- identifying opportunities for local and regional partnerships,
- adaptation planning and asset management assistance,
- conducting vulnerability assessments; and,
- coordinating training opportunities.

MassDEP will prioritize technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater utilities based upon system vulnerability and infrastructure risks identified through:

- desktop assessments that determine topographic vulnerabilities,
- current sanitary survey and/or inspection results,
- emergency response (ER) events,
- MassDEP regional program recommendations; and
- utility or municipal interest.

Additional Information

To learn how the Water Utility Resiliene Program can assist your Drinking Water or Wastewater utility, please contact Kristin Divris at Kristin.Divris@state.ma.us or at 508-849-4028.

Visit the MassDEP climate action preparedness & response web site:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/climate-energy/climate/preparedness/>

Or use this friendly link to find out who to call in your town:
<http://mass.gov/dep/muni-call>