



UPDATE FROM RURAL WATER

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

As I write this article for the fall issue of *Aquafacts*, it is a hot humid day here and we have all experienced some crazy weather this summer in New York State with dangerous flooding and tornadoes touching down around the state. It is apparent that we all need to be prepared for these emergency situations.

New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) will be participating in additional Emergency Response training in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to assist our community systems when natural disasters occur.

We also are starting up two new programs, funded by the USEPA, to assist small water and wastewater facilities with training and on-site technical assistance. Molly Reed is running both of these programs and will be providing training across the state utilizing the USDA/EPA developed Effective Utility Management Workshops to assist small publicly-owned wastewater systems and onsite/decentralized wastewater systems personnel to improve operational performance over the long-term, thereby improving public health and water quality. She will also be providing training to water and wastewater systems on flood resiliency, well rehabilitation, rules and regulations, and hydrants, valves and meters. So watch your mail for fliers on these events and check out our website for training events in your area.

We are pleased to inform you that our State Circuit Rider Program is continuing into its second year of our five year contract and will continue to provide our small water systems with on-site technical assistance and training with ongoing regulatory, operational, managerial, financial, and technical deficiencies, including emergencies. Through these on-site visits, our State Circuit Riders will assist water systems serving fewer than 3,300 customers, to evaluate their systems and resources and to review and update their emergency response plans. All small systems should be considering mutual aid plans with neighboring water systems to address needs for additional trained personnel and equipment. In addition, NYRWA strongly encourages all small systems to consider joining the NYWARN, which is at no cost to the municipality and could help you when you are in an emergency situation, or could provide you the means to help others.

For more information on NYWARN please speak to any of our technical assistance providers or go to the NYWARN web site at www.nywarn.org. Our State Circuit Riders will have six one day training events around the state to provide you with the necessary skills and contact hours you require in your day-to-day operations. They will be holding classes on basic math, line location/leak detection, and water system infrastructure management. Again, be sure to check our website periodically to register for these events, classes fill up quickly.

NYRWA is also in the process of setting up additional Laboratory classes across the state for those seeking this required certification and we are working on a few Grade D Initial Certification Training events. If you are interested in a three day Grade D Initial Certification training class in your area, please contact Valerie Ogden at our office toll free 1-888-NYRURAL (697-8725).

Yvonne Tucker, our Wastewater Trainer, has projected her training events to include filtration technologies, sustainability, valve training, safety operations, automation & technology, chemical coagulation, basic electricity, phosphorus removal, and microscope techniques. So as you can see, we will have plenty of opportunities provided for you in the training arena. Let's not forget, our home study courses and our online training modules for your convenience. All of this is periodically updated on our website at www.nyruralwater.org under training and it is very easy for you to register on line for these training events.

Finally, as you are visited by our field staff, we hope you will participate in a video we are making to promote you, our rural water family. It is a fun event that only takes a moment of your time so please consider participating – you could be famous, well only here in New York..... SMILE, You are on NYRWA Camera!!

Enjoy and be safe. 💧💧

