

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Kris Phillips

FROM: Bob Babcock

DATE: 9/26/07

SUBJECT: Nov 07 Water Works News article – DEQ Water Sector Security Program



1. MI WARN: Michigan Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) - Update

WARN is utilities helping utilities by facilitating emergency management. So far, 11 states, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, California, Oregon, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Utah have implemented WARN's in their state.

In general, WARNs operate by allowing member utilities to self-populate a database with credentialed personnel and specified equipment that, on a case by case basis, might be available to other member utilities. Mutual aid agreements are also a part of the WARN.

33 Michigan utilities have expressed interest in being members of MI WARN. A steering committee is being chaired by Terry Biederman of Waterford Township and currently a host for the web server is being investigated along with startup and operational costs.

2. Gas Chlorine Reduction Project

Under a grant from US Department of Homeland Security, two contractors have been selected to complete the gas chlorine reduction project at drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. The goal of the project is reduced gas chlorine use in Michigan.

3. 2 - FTX's: Possible FTX's at two large water treatment plants in 2008. Funding has been preliminarily approved for two field training exercises (FTXs) by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The objective is to evaluate response to a weapons of mass destruction incident and raise the awareness of the importance of the water system in the community.

4. 14 Features of Active/Effective Water Security: National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC)

Implementing the 14 features of an active and effective water security program will help water and wastewater systems reduce risk to public health from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. This Water Works News edition focuses on Infrastructure. For more about these 14 features, please check the MDEQ Water & Wastewater web site:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_23413---,00.html

C. Infrastructure

- [Intrusion detection & access control \(#6\)](#)
- [Information protection & continuity \(#8\)](#)
- [Design and construction standards \(#9\)](#)

5. Federal legislative update:

- New federal law: PL – 053: The 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. This new federal law includes provisions for:
 - voluntary water system preparedness standards & certification
 - a national database identifying critical infrastructure
- proposed legislation: a bill to provide for a national Commission on Infrastructure; and a Water Security grants bill, aka Water Security Act of 2007, which provides for \$245 M for water & wastewater security

6. VA CIP and TTT-TTX

Acronyms for two continuing contract efforts in the water security program: vulnerability assessment capital improvement plan (CDM Michigan) and train the trainer-tabletop exercises (Patriot Services). Please consider participating in these efforts if contacted. The State as well as your community and the national effort are benefited by your participation.

Thank for doing what you do so well...providing safe and reliable water for your community.