

Water Sector Collaboration

Why should Electric Utilities Prioritize Power Restoration for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities?



An extended power loss can have devastating impacts on drinking water and wastewater utilities and the communities they serve.

- Hospitals would need to evacuate, firefighting would be challenging and most businesses would close without water services.
- The loss of power at wastewater pumps could lead to sewage backups in homes and businesses.

The water sector requires continuous power to maintain operations. Many water sector facilities prepare for grid outages, but typically only for a few hours or days. It is critical that electric utilities collaborate with the water sector before, during and after emergencies to ensure the health, safety and well being of communities.



Know More!

What are drinking water and wastewater treatment plants learning about power resiliency? Visit epa.gov/communitywaterresilience.

Key Considerations for Collaborating with the Water Sector

Make Contacts

Good relationships between electric utilities and the water sector are key to ensuring that communities have access to drinking water and wastewater services during an emergency.

Priority Actions:

- ✓ Get to know the emergency response managers at the drinking water and wastewater facilities in your service area
- ✓ Let them know how their facilities can be put on the priority list for power restoration
- ✓ Ensure that your water sector customers have multiple ways to contact your utility

Participate in Training and Exercises

Drinking water and wastewater utilities staff train and exercise their Emergency Response Plans regularly.

Priority Actions:

- ✓ Invite water sector emergency response managers to your emergency trainings and exercises
- ✓ Ask to participate at their trainings and exercises to learn how they are relying on you
- ✓ Conduct joint planning to better coordinate your response actions with the water sector