MDE

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Deputy Secretary

September 15, 2009

Mr. Stephen Gerwin, P.E.
Bureau Chief
Howard County Bureau of Utilities
8250 Old Montgomery Road
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Mr. ~~Gerwin~~ Steve:

Thank you for your efforts and leadership toward establishing the Maryland Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MDWARN). The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has been a strong proponent of WARN ever since the concept was introduced through the American Water Works Association initiative.

We believe that creating a network of water and wastewater utilities that can assist one another during emergencies, will help to improve the reliability of critical water and wastewater services. Most public drinking water systems in Maryland are small, and many are privately-owned. MDWARN will provide a mechanism for participating water and wastewater utilities to offer mutual aid to one another, and will be particularly helpful for smaller water systems. With MDWARN in place, water systems of all sizes will be able to better and more rapidly respond to emergency situations, and obtain access to the knowledge, personnel, and equipment necessary to mitigate impacts to public health. To be a successful program, it is imperative that all partners in the water and wastewater community, including the regulatory agencies, work together to support the plan. Consequently, we strongly support MDWARN and recommend that all water and wastewater utilities consider becoming members.

Again, thank you for your extensive efforts in establishing MDWARN. We look forward to an operational MDWARN with the participation of many Maryland utilities.

Sincerely,

Saeid Kasraei
Administrator
Water Supply Program