

Drinking Water or Wastewater Operator Continuing Education Credit

Request for Course Approval

Course Title: We WARN together: Integrating WARN in RRAs & ERPs

Sponsoring Organization: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Water Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Resilience Division (WICRD)

Course Format: Online Webinar

Course Length: 1 hour

Event Date and Time: Thursday, December 5, 2024, 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET

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Training Location: Online Webinar

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Introduction & General Description

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) section 2013 revised Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1433 and requires community water systems (CWS) serving more than 3,300 people to prepare or revise and certify risk and resilience assessments (RRAs) and emergency response plans (ERPs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by specified deadlines every five years. The next five-year re-certification deadlines are quickly approaching, with deadlines beginning in 2025 for larger CWSs and ending in 2026 for smaller CWSs.

Water and Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN), the intrastate mutual aid and assistance network of "utilities helping utilities", is one strategy that utilities can use to build resilience. In this webinar, EPA will provide examples of how utilities can utilize WARN and add WARN to their RRA and ERP.

Course Objectives

Course participants will:

1. Understand the requirements and upcoming deadlines associated with SDWA 1433
2. Learn how WARNs can help utilities recover during disasters
3. Learn how to incorporate WARN in your SDWA 1433 RRA
4. Learn how to incorporate WARN in your SDWA 1433 ERP
5. Know how to certify completion of your RRA and ERP to EPA prior to the upcoming deadlines in 2025-2026

Course Format and Procedures

Prior to the event, participants will need to register via Zoom. No later than one week before the training, those registered for the remote training will receive an email with the webinar URL, instructions for connecting, and troubleshooting guidance. A designated individual will be available throughout the duration of the webinar to provide technical support.

During the training, participants will be able to ask questions and interact through a variety of activities (i.e., polling app) and group discussions. Throughout the training, participants will be directed to respond to quiz questions via a polling application. The responses will be tracked. Those operators seeking continuing education credit will be required to participate throughout the training and provide their certification number in order to receive credit for attending the training (see section VII. Criteria of Course Completion).

WICRD will develop certificates of completion for attendees. Certificates will be emailed to attendees within one month of the training. If required, a list of operators, including their certification numbers, will be provided to state certification agencies within two weeks of the training's completion.

I. Course Agenda

Time	Topic
1:00 – 1:10 PM	SDWA 1433 Overview (upcoming deadlines, RRA and ERP requirements, how to certify) <i>Charlene Kormondy, U.S. EPA WICRD</i>
1:10 – 1:20 PM	Reviewing and Revising RRAs and ERPs <i>Charlene Kormondy, U.S. EPA WICRD</i>
1:20 – 1:30 PM	Benefits of WARN <i>Jessica Habashy, U.S. EPA WICRD</i>
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Incorporating WARN in your RRA and ERP <i>Jessica Habashy, U.S. EPA WICRD</i>

II. Presenter Biographies

Charlene Kormondy, U.S. EPA WICRD

Charlene Kormondy is a physical scientist in EPA's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division. Charlene works on the implementation of America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) section 2013, which amended Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) section 1433 and requires applicable community drinking water systems to have risk and resilience assessments and emergency response plans. She has a master's degree in Environmental Science and Management, with a focus on water resources management, from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Central Florida.

Jessica Habashy, U.S. EPA WICRD

Jessica Habashy is an Environmental Engineer with the EPA's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division. She is on the Planning, Response, Recovery team (PRR) to help utilities with disaster preparation, planning, and relief. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked on global water and wastewater infrastructure and education through international development and disaster relief. Jessica received her bachelor's degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Florida State University and holds her Engineering License from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Attendance Verification and Retention of Attendance Records

Attendance is verified using a combination of the post-webinar evaluation and the recording features of the Zoom platform. When an attendee submits a request for Continuing Education credit at the end of the webinar, WICRD will cross-reference with the webinar recording to see that attendees were, in fact, present at the beginning of the webinar. Additionally, the post-webinar evaluation form includes quiz questions to verify that attendees were paying attention during the webinar (see section VII. Criteria of Course Completion).

WICRD maintains a spreadsheet of all webinar attendees who request Continuing Education credit. This information is maintained in accordance with EPA's Records Management policies. A list of attendees, including operator certification numbers, will be provided to state agencies if required. If state agencies wish to confirm attendance in the future, inquiries may be directed to the contact or WICRD-Outreach@epa.gov.

III. Criteria of Course Completion

To receive credit for the course, operators must attend the entire training (see section VI. Attendance Verification). Throughout the training, participants will be directed to quiz questions via a polling application accessible to all users. Those seeking CEUs will be required to respond correctly to at least 80% of these questions and provide their information in order to receive credit for the training.

IV. Sample Certificate of Completion - Attached