

WC-1 Resolution on Accountability for All Water and Wastewater Systems

Whereas all water and wastewater systems across the country have a responsibility to provide safe, reliable, and affordable water service to their customers both now and in the future;

Whereas the obligation to provide safe, reliable, and affordable water service applies equally to regulated and unregulated water and wastewater utilities;

Whereas water and wastewater systems face a myriad of challenges, including but not limited to aging infrastructure, cyber and physical security threats, environmental compliance, emerging contaminants, and water supply issues;

Whereas maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure, which will require an investment of nearly one trillion dollars over a 20-year period, requires careful planning by water and wastewater systems to ensure such work is done as prudently and cost effectively as possible;

Whereas water and wastewater systems are increasingly vulnerable to harmful events including cyberattacks, physical attacks, and natural disasters if not properly protected;

Whereas water quality and supply issues affect both the safety and reliability of water, potentially impacting human health and the economic health of a community;

Whereas accountability for all water and wastewater utilities is important to ensure they engage in the appropriate planning to address the challenges outlined above; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), as convened at its 130th Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida, work together with appropriate associations to help develop best practices that would enable water and wastewater systems to engage in careful planning and to address these challenges; and that all water and wastewater systems develop and/or maintain (1) an asset management plan that requires the utility to inspect, maintain, repair, and replace aging infrastructure in a timely, prudent, and cost-effective manner; (2) a security plan to protect against cyber and physical attacks; (3) an emergency response plan for natural disasters and other unplanned events; (4) a mitigation plan for water quality issues, including those that result in a Notice of Violation; (5) an annual certification that the system is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations; and (6) a plan to address short- and long-term water supply issues, if any exist.

Sponsored by the Committee on Water

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors on November 13, 2018

Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole on November 14, 2018