

"The Village of Nunda"

By Dan Tousley
NYRWA Circuit Rider III



I'm finding that there seems to be a similarity between quitting smoking and drafting our Emergency Response Plans. Oops, I spelled it out! Not politically correct. I forgot that today everything is an acronym. Our E.R.P.s!

You hear, "Yeah, I should quit, but Aunt Betty smoked for 137 years and never got cancer!" And now we hear, "Yeah, we should do an E.R.P. but no terrorist is going to bother our small system, and we have never had a problem!" Well, let me tell you a story!

On Saturday afternoon, August 9th, 2003, in the comfortable Village of Nunda in Livingston County, it rained. BIG TIME!! It was unofficially reported that about nine inches of rain fell in a 48-hour period. Nunda Village Mayor Jim Byrnes, Public Works Superintendent Bob King and his men, responded immediately to this unexpected natural disaster.



Mayor Jim Byrnes provides a follow-up interview with Channel 10 News.



Mayor Byrnes and Channel 10 News in front of Nunda Village Hall.

Rain fell so fast that the reservoir spillway could not provide sufficient relief. Water poured over and



*Erosion of the original dyke.
Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers*



*Erosion from flash flood. Note pipe remnants at right and at lower left.
Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers*



*Spillway from reservoir. Note remnant of original transmission main at lower center. 450' of new piping was needed to close the breach.
Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers*



*A giant hole was washed out (now filled with stone) where UTT's Case Excavator now sets. Originally the cast iron main was routed through here, now replaced with 12" polyethylene pipe.
Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers*

started eroding the dyke. A large section of the 12" water supply line was washed away as well. A very serious threat to the water supply!



*Village storage tanks for treated water. Look closely to see remaining levels at condensation lines: At ladder bottom on the green tank and up three rungs of the ladder on the blue tank. Conservation was a major concern!
Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers*

I am told, a local resident had to be rescued from atop a propane tank by local rescue services.

Mr. Paul Chatfield, Village Engineer, of Chatfield Engineers, was contacted and he immediately called Ron Cartwright, foreman for Underground Technologies Inc. Ron immediately began rolling heavy equipment to the site, as well as, contacting Blair Supply Corp. to open their business and arrange a pick up of 450' of 12" polyethylene pipe and adapters to effect repairs on the displaced pipeline.



Village fire hall. Around the corner from the village hall.

One of several immediate concerns of village officials was conservation of the remaining treated water supply in the treatment plant's storage tanks.

Saturday evening, Mayor Byrnes set up a command post in the village fire hall, issued a state of emergency, and ordered water conservation measures village wide. The car wash and laundromat were closed, and residents were asked

to use paper plates. Village residents are duly credited with an astounding 50% reduction in water consumption!

Among those responding to Nunda to provide assistance were:

- Mr. Ralph Harstad, P.E. Regional Water Supply Engineer with NYSDOH
- Sanitarian Joseph Bucci, Jr. with the Livingston County Health Dept.
- Tom Reynolds, U.S. Congress House of Representatives
- Senator Pat McGee

Please forgive me for any assistance providers I have inadvertently omitted.



Trash can in Keshequa Creek near wastewater plant site.

While salvation and restoration work was progressing on one side of town, the Wastewater Plant operators on the other side of town were proficiently preparing to keep their plant operational, as the large increase of inflow hit them. Material had been transferred to other locations to optimize space.

I believe Mayor Jim Byrnes, Superintendent Bob King, village employees, Paul Chatfield, and Ron Cartwright, did a remarkable job saving and restoring the village water system. However, as evidenced by this photo of the trash can, I question the effectiveness of their solid waste program! (I'll check with New York Rural Water Association's Bob Messinger.)

As life returns to normal in the peaceful Village of Nunda, Mayor Jim Byrnes, and Village Clerk Merilee Walker, and other employees will have even more data to add to their Emergency Response Plan. Oops, spelled it again! ERP!

Most likely it will not be a terrorist we will have to contend with in the event of an emergency. But then we don't buy auto insurance just to protect us for collisions with trains, or homeowners insurance for wind damage only.

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Yes folks, these ERPs are extremely valuable when called for. If you have not drafted or updated yours, better do so ASAP! PDQ! (Love those acronyms!)

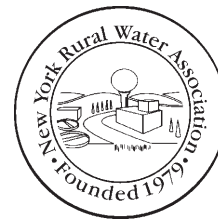
Now, about this smoking thing.....



Nunda reservoir. High water mark can be seen in distant vegetation. Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers



A view of UTT's speedy restoration of the reservoir dike. Photo courtesy of Chatfield Engineers

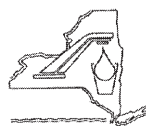


NYRWA Holidays

- **New Year's Day**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- **Presidents Day**
- **Memorial Day**



In Appreciation...



Central New York Water Works Conference, Inc.
P.O. Box 9, Syracuse, New York 13211

November 5, 2003

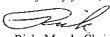
New York Rural Water Association
PO Box 487
Claverack, NY 12513

Attn: Josh Bossard/Steve Winkley

Josh & Steve:

On behalf of our membership I want to thank you for participating in our meeting last month. I'm certain that everyone in attendance benefited from your presentation. The time and effort that you gave is very much appreciated.

Once again, thanks

Very truly yours,

Rick March, Chairman
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