



**BOLTON  
& MENK**

Real People. Real Solutions.

# PROACTIVE EMERGENCY UTILITY PLANNING

## Ensuring Sewer and Water Systems Resilience and Efficiency

During catastrophic events, public utility systems are threatened, putting residences and businesses at risk. Flooding can elevate sewer system flow, making properties susceptible to backups. Prolonged electrical outages can worsen damage and deprive the public of drinkable water. To minimize property damage, sewer utility operators use temporary pumping and discharge to relieve excess flow. Operators often know where the most at-risk properties are located and place the temporary pumps based on historical approaches. However, these approaches may not be effective as the collection system is routinely modified through expansion, relocation, or other improvements. Likewise, water operators use similar approaches to keep water distribution and supply systems functional and while suitable, may not be optimal. During emergencies, response time is critical, and operations are essential to safeguarding property and providing drinkable water.

Continuity planning allows service utilities to be better prepared for emergencies, particularly flooding, as well as tornadoes, hurricanes, and widespread electrical outages. It can be used to assess shortfalls in the system's sustainability and resiliency, addressing the question of 'what happens to our utility system if a disruption occurs?' and 'how would we respond in an impactful way?'

### Why Bolton & Menk

Bolton & Menk brings science to thoughtful planning principles to maximize the impact of operations. We consider 'what if' scenarios rather than relying on instinctive approaches. As engineers and public works officials, we leverage our combined engineering and operational expertise to ensure that emergency responses are intuitive and require minimal effort to implement.




### Bolton & Menk will help you create an operations plan that

- Minimizes property damage
- Reduces hours expended by utility staff
- Increases the system's ability to maintain service during an emergency
- Reduces system recovery time, while increasing system efficiency
- Provides more impactful response when the large portions of the system are at risk concurrently
- Increases peace of mind during stressful emergencies

#### CONTACT

 Josh Pope, PE, ENV SP LEED AP BD+C,  
Regional Sewer & Water Services Group Leader

 [Joshua.Pope@bolton-menk.com](mailto:Joshua.Pope@bolton-menk.com)

 [Bolton-Menk.com](http://Bolton-Menk.com)

