



Staff Operations Item 5

# ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2026

To: Jerome D. Schad, Chair  
Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair  
Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer

From: Leonard F. Kowalski, PE, Executive Engineer *LFK*

Subject: Emergency Declaration  
Union Road, Town of Cheektowaga  
PN 202500146

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On July 11, 2025, Declaration of State of Emergency was issued for ECWA Direct Service 20-inch water main that failed near the intersection of Union Road and George Urban Boulevard (Town of Cheektowaga) at approximately 5:30 pm on July 10, 2025. The failure was found within the north bound lanes of Union Road beneath a large drainage flume (approximately 15-foot width). Several sections of pipe and fittings required removal and replacement. An additional main valve was installed to reduce the number of customers out-of-service. Due to the location and magnitude of the break, the repair required the mobilization of a number of contractors over and above ECWA staff as well as specialized equipment and materials. The repair was completed and the intersection reopened to traffic on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent to making the repair, the ECWA and the NYSDOT agreed that it was in the best interest of the project if the NYSDOT handled the pavement restoration with the ECWA responsible for the costs.

Note, according to the policy, “all purchases under a Declaration of Emergency must be made with thirty (30) days of the Declaration of Emergency”, however due to the need to allow the excavation backfill to settle and stabilize, prior to final restoration, the project was not scheduled to be completed until the end of October 2025. This Declaration of Emergency was previously extended to account for this.

Due to weather constraints and other delays out of the control of both the ECWA and the NYSDOT, final restoration was delayed and has yet to be completed. Our understanding is that the NYSDOT is in the process of coordinating with their contractors and currently anticipates that all restoration will now be completed this spring. As such, this Declaration of Emergency must again be extended.

This Declaration of the State of Emergency is reported to the Board of Commissioners according to ECWA Procurement Policy adopted and approved on April 29, 2024; amended, re-adopted and re-approved on April 17, 2025 (Article 10, Emergency Purchases).

LFK:MJQ:jmf  
cc: CHTN-900-2501