When a utility calls for help

On September 9, 2017, Florida Power & Light asked Ontario's Hydro One for help ahead of Hurricane Irma. Within 24 hours, Hydro One had mobilized 175 employees and sent them south with vehicles and equipment.

What would MAR add?

Mutual AI Resilience (MAR) proposes that partners verify requests and arrange help in advance. Try this in a drill. A town's water pumping station loses power. The electric utility requests a line crew. A road closure delays its arrival. AI could flag the old arrival time. The dispatcher checks with the sending utility, and the water operator confirms when pumping resumes.

> ### Ask every candidate
>
> Would you support a limited test of whether verified warnings and prearranged help can keep an essential service running? What evidence would make you continue, revise, or stop it?

One step for each office

President	Ask the Department of Energy what support utilities can request across borders. Identify the federal authority and cost before inviting partners to a drill.
Congress	Ask a local utility where a request can stall. Before voting on funds, set a spending cap, an end date and a public review of delays and costs.
State	A governor can invite two communities to rehearse a request for help. A state legislator can ask who pays, propose a funding limit and set a date to hear the results.
Local	Bring the water operator and electric utility together. Agree who checks service at the station and who updates residents if the crew is delayed.

How to judge the result

Give three teams the same reports and crews. Compare the usual procedure, an agreed way to verify updates, and that same procedure with AI. Record the time to a confirmed crew assignment, duplicate assignments and incorrect public notices. Keep the simplest process that meets the agreed target.

Historical source. Hydro One, *Hydro One awarded for outstanding restoration efforts after Hurricane Irma*, January 10, 2018. The pumping-station drill is a proposal. AI's benefit still needs testing.

My question for this office