

# America's Water Infrastructure Act










## NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER UTILITIES

America's Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) requires all community water systems (CWS) that serve more than 3,300 people to develop or update a risk and resilience assessment and an emergency response plan (ERP).

### RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Risk and resilience assessments must include the items below and must be reviewed and recertified every five years.

-  Risk to the system from **malevolent acts and natural hazards**.
-  **Resilience** of the pipes and constructed conveyances, physical barriers, source water, water collection and intake, pretreatment, treatment, storage and distribution facilities, electronic, computer, or other automated systems (including the security of such systems) which are utilized by the system.
-  **Monitoring practices** of the system.
-  **Financial infrastructure** of the system.
-  **Use, storage, or handling of various chemicals** by the system.
-  **Operation and maintenance** of the system.
-  *Optional evaluation of **capital and operational needs** for risk and resilience management for the system.*

A baseline threat document to provide community water systems with additional information concerning risk assessment requirements will be released by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by August 1, 2019.

### CAN MY UTILITY USE A PREVIOUS RISK ASSESSMENT OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN?

Previously completed risk assessments or ERP as long as they:

- Include all assessment or response components listed in the new law.
- Reflect the current conditions of your system.

If components are missing, the CWS may add those components. If the system has undergone modifications, the risk assessment or ERP may be amended to address those changes.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EMERGING REGULATORY ISSUES, CONTACT:

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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

No later than six months after certifying completion of its risk and resilience assessment, each system must prepare or revise, where necessary, an emergency response plan that incorporates the findings of the assessment. The plan must include:



Strategies and resources to improve the **resilience of the system**, including the physical security and cybersecurity of the system.



**Plans and procedures** that can be implemented, and identification of equipment that can be utilized, in the event of a malevolent act or natural hazard that threatens the ability of the community water system to deliver safe drinking water.



**Actions, procedures, and equipment which can prevent or significantly lessen the impact** of a malevolent act or natural hazard on the public health and the safety and supply of drinking water provided to communities and individuals, including the development of alternative source water options, relocation of water intakes and construction of flood protection barriers.



**Strategies that can be used to aid in the detection of malevolent acts or natural hazards** that threaten the security or resilience of the system.

CWSs must coordinate with local emergency planning committees when preparing or revising an assessment or emergency response plan under the AWIA. Further, systems must maintain a copy of the assessment and emergency response plan for five years after certifying the plan to the EPA. Utilities must certify the ERP has been reviewed and, if necessary, revised within six month of submitting recertification for the risk and resilience assessment.



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CERTIFICATION DEADLINES		
Population Served	Risk and Resilience Assessment	Emergency Response Plan*
≥ 100,000	3/31/20	9/30/20
≥ 50,000 - 99,000	12/31/20	6/30/21
3,301 - 49,999	6/30/21	12/30/21

\*Emergency response plan certifications are due six months from the date of the risk assessment certification. The dates shown above are certification dates based on a utility submitting a risk assessment on the final due date.

