



What You Need to Know: Meeting the New AWIA Requirements for Community Drinking Water

The EPA's Water Security Division is currently developing tools, resources, and procedures that align drinking water systems with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). The EPA expects to release its guidance by August 1, 2019. Drinking water systems will need to comply with the new AWIA guidelines.

AWIA was signed into law on October 23, 2018. This law requires community drinking water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk assessments and update emergency response plans (ERP). The law outlines components that risk assessments and ERP's must address. AWIA also establishes deadlines for drinking water systems to complete the risk assessment and ERP certification in accordance with the EPA's guidelines. The law does not apply to wastewater systems.

The Risk and Resilience Assessment should consider risks from natural hazards and malevolent acts and should also consider:

- Pipes/conveyances
- Source water
- Water collection/intakes
- Pretreatment
- Treatment
- Storage
- Distribution
- Electronic/computer systems
- Other automated systems (including security)
- Monitoring practices
- Financial infrastructure
- Chemical use, storage, and handling
- Operation and maintenance

Following the completion of the Risk and Resilience Assessment, Emergency Response Plans must be developed or updated to incorporate findings from the assessment, including:

- Strategies and resources to improve resilience, including physical security and cybersecurity;
- Plans, procedures, and equipment for responding to a malevolent act or natural hazard;
- Actions, procedures, and equipment to lessen the impact of a malevolent act or natural hazard;
- Strategies to detect malevolent acts or natural hazards.

Systems must certify completion of the risk assessment and ERP by the following deadlines:

- Population served \geq 100,000: Certify risk assessment by March 31, 2020; certify ERP no later than six months after completion of the assessment
- Population served 50,000 – 99,999: Certify risk assessment by December 31, 2020; certify ERP no later than six months after completion of the assessment
- Population served 3,300 – 49,999: Certify risk assessment by June 30, 2021; certify ERP no later than six months after completion of the assessment

For help or questions contact: **Peter Galant, PE**, PBGalant@tighebond.com / (203) 712.1104.

[Click here for EPA's fact sheet.](#)



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