



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 13 2002

OFFICE OF
WATER

Dear Community Water System Manager:

This letter describes how you can access important new information concerning water security. It also provides information about new requirements for community water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended by recent legislation on security and bioterrorism.

On June 12, 2002, President Bush signed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act) into law (PL 107-188). The Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act added Section 1433 (a)(1) to the Safe Drinking Water Act, instructing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to "provide baseline information to community water systems required to conduct vulnerability assessments regarding which kinds of terrorist attacks or other intentional acts are the probable threats to: (a) substantially disrupt the ability of the system to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water; or (b) otherwise present significant public health concerns."

In response to the new Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, EPA has completed the *Baseline Threat Information for Vulnerability Assessments of Community Water Systems* document to assist water utilities in conducting vulnerability assessments. This report is not a blueprint for developing a vulnerability assessment; however, it does present an overview of threats, methodologies, and strategies for water utilities to consider as you develop the vulnerability assessments required under the new law. You may obtain a copy of this document through the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC). The WaterISAC is a new service intended to provide a secure forum to share and convey security-related information. Directions for obtaining access to the document through the Web-based WaterISAC are described in the Attachment to this letter. Hold all information contained in the document in confidence and take reasonable precautions to protect it.

As noted above, the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act requires *every* community water system serving a population of greater than 3,300 persons to: (1) conduct a vulnerability assessment; (2) certify and submit a copy of the assessment to the EPA Administrator (within a specified schedule); (3) prepare or revise an emergency response plan that incorporates the results of the vulnerability assessment; and (4) certify to the EPA

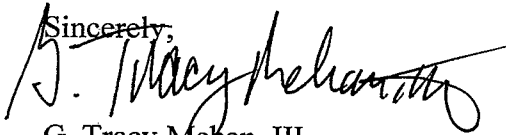
Administrator, within 6 months of completing the vulnerability assessment, that the system has completed such a plan.

The Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act establishes the following due dates for certification and submission of the vulnerability assessments, and for certification of the emergency response plans:

Systems serving population of:	Certify and submit VA by:	Certify ERP within 6 mos. of VA but no later than:
100,000 or greater	March 31, 2003	September 30, 2003
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2003	June 30, 2004
3,301 – 49,999	June 30, 2004	December 31, 2004

Finally, the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act requires EPA to conduct studies in the areas of: (1) prevention, detection, and response to the intentional introduction of contaminants into community water systems and source water for those systems; (2) methods and means by which terrorists could disrupt the supply of safe drinking water or take actions against drinking water infrastructure; and (3) methods and means by which alternative supplies of drinking water could be provided in the event of the destruction, impairment or contamination of public water systems. As required by the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, EPA will make this information available, as appropriate, to community water systems through the WaterISAC or other means.

I hope you find the *Baseline Threat Information for Vulnerability Assessments of Community Water Systems* document helpful as you undertake the very important task of improving the security of our nation's drinking water infrastructure.

Sincerely,


G. Tracy Mehan, III
Assistant Administrator

Attachment

Attachment

Directions to Access the Document

Baseline Threat Information for Vulnerability Assessments of Community Water Systems

Provide the following information on the individual designated to access the document. Follow directions below.

Name (printed): _____
Name (signature): _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Public Water System Identification # _____
(PWS ID)

If You Have Internet Access

- Fax your request for the document on your organization's letterhead stationery along with this page with requested information. *The letter should be signed by the community water system manager.* The fax number is: 202-785-1845.
- The designee will receive an encrypted E-mail reply with unique password and user identification. You will also receive an access code to open the document in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please take all reasonable precautions to protect this information.
- Once you have received your username and password by E-mail, go to the Web site: <http://www.waterisac.org/EPAdocument.asp> and log-in. Follow directions on the web site to access the document. You may download a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader from the WaterISAC web site to open the document.
- For technical assistance in accessing the document, E-mail your question to: info@waterisac.org or call: 866-h2o-ISAC (426-4722). For questions about the content of the document, E-mail Brian Frazer with EPA's Water Protection Task Force at, frazer.brian@epa.gov.

If You DO NOT Have Internet Access

Fax or mail your request for the document on your organization's letterhead stationery along with this page with requested information. *The letter should be signed by the community water system manager.* The fax number is 202-564-8513. The express mail delivery address is: Environmental Protection Agency, Attn: Documents, Room 2104A EPA East, 1201 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20004. *If you send the letter by U.S. Postal Service there will be a significant delay.* You will receive the document by registered U.S. mail.

