

WATER

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY



The Bioterrorism Act passed by Congress in response to the events of September 11, 2001 requires that certain public water supply systems must perform vulnerability assessments on their water system and update emergency response plans to address vulnerabilities identified in their water system. In Oklahoma, many water systems already have emergency response plans in effect but may need to update them to address vulnerabilities that may be discovered. Some small systems may not have an existing emergency response plan.

Congress provided funding to large systems to perform vulnerability assessments and update emergency response plans. Six large water plants serving over 100,000 population applied to EPA for \$115,000 grants for Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Plan updates. All received their grants and are in the process of completing their Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency plan updates.

! MANDATE !

The Act mandates that water systems complete vulnerability assessments and submit them to EPA by the following dates:

Population	Date
100,000 or greater	March 31, 2003
50,000 to 99,999	December 31, 2003
3,301 to 49,999	June 30, 2004

It also mandates that water systems update emergency response plans and submit them to EPA by the following dates:

Population	Date
100,000 or greater	September 30, 2003
50,000 to 99,999	June 30, 2004
3,301 to 49,999	December 31, 2004

No direct grants are available to small and medium systems at this time. However, EPA has made grants available to the states to assist in this effort. WQD applied to EPA for two grants to update our model emergency plan and put it on the website, distribute a small water system Self-assessment document, and to establish an emergency email notification system to water systems in the event of a threat or emergency, provide technical assistance to water systems in the completion of their security vulnerability assessments and updated emergency plans. Those grants have been received and WQD is beginning to implement the technical assistance program to small and medium systems. The funding provide by EPA will support a two year effort to assist these systems meet statutory deadlines for these documents.

Water Quality Division has developed self-assessment templates suitable for Oklahoma water systems and will provide on-site technical assistance to water systems to complete the required documents. Below is a listing of documents that can be used as templates to meet federal requirements in the Bioterrorism Act. They will be provided in a format which should be usable by all versions of the most commonly used word processing programs.

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WATER

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY *Continued*

Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Small Drinking Water Systems Serving Populations Between 3,300 and 9,999



This document, developed by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the National Rural Water Association, and EPA, will allow small water systems to use their own staff and other resources to produce an acceptable Vulnerability Assessment. It has been modified to apply specifically to Oklahoma water systems.

Model Emergency Response Plan

This document, developed by the Water Quality Division of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, will provide a template for an Emergency Response Plan for those systems which currently do not have one in effect. Emergency response plans for water systems under 3,300 population are not required by EPA, but are highly recommended to prepare for emergencies both natural and man-made.

Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Small Water Systems Serving Less Than 3,300

This document, developed by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the National Rural Water Association, and EPA, will allow small water systems to use their own staff and other resources to produce an acceptable Vulnerability Assessment. It has been modified to apply specifically to Oklahoma water systems. Vulnerability assessments for water systems under 3,300 population are not required by EPA, but are highly recommended to identify system weaknesses and prepare for emergencies both natural and man-made.

Technical Assistance

If you wish technical assistance in completing these documents, call your Public Water Supply Program District Engineer at (405)702-8100. Technical assistance in completing these documents for small water systems may also be requested from the Oklahoma Rural Water Association.

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies also has excellent security vulnerability self-assessment tools available for both wastewater and water that meet EPA requirements. To obtain copies of their assessment tools for your water systems use, contact their web site at: <http://www.vsatusers.net/>

Currently several other vulnerability self-assessment tools are under development for medium and small water systems. Please continue to check the DEQ WQD web site for additional tools or links to sites where they may be obtained.



Please Protect Our Water!