



Small Community Water Systems AWIA Compliance Assistance

A collaborative approach to improving the safety of rural drinking water systems

Community Water Systems (CWS), like other utilities comprising the nation's critical infrastructure sector, face an array of threats from both natural hazards and human-caused occurrences. Several events and conditions - including water contamination, infrastructure damage, tap water elevated lead levels, and increasing sustainability challenges from the aging and deteriorated state of assets - have increased national attention to these major threats.

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) enacted October 23, 2018, contains provisions that seek to address threats to safe, adequate, and reliable drinking water, and other water infrastructure concerns. The law requires Community Water Systems (CWS) serving populations of 3,300 or greater, to conduct Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRA) and develop or update Emergency Response Plans (ERP).

CWSs serving populations between 3,300 and 50,000 (classified by AWIA as "small"), must complete and certify completion of RRAs and ERPs by June 30 and December 31, 2021, respectively. This group may be experiencing the acute challenge of complying with the law due to limited managerial, technical and financial resources.

About the Small Systems AWIA Compliance Assistance

The **Small Community Water Systems AWIA Compliance Assistance** is a collaborative approach to assist small CWSs comply with AWIA before the statutory deadlines. Key features and benefits include:

- ❖ **Drinking Water Protection** – Prioritization and schedule for the most needed improvements to reduce risk and improve resilience
- ❖ **Available Funding** – Provide an option to receive funding up to the full cost to meet compliance
- ❖ **Compliance Assurance** – Help ensure adherence to the full requirements of the law
- ❖ **Knowledge Transfer** – Facilitate learning and sharing of best practices among peer utilities

The approach will help ensure that critical assets are defined, and prioritized, applicable threats are identified, and associated risks and system resilience are evaluated to the level of rigor required to support risk management decisions. Benefits include:

- ✓ The utility gains an understanding into where the priorities are to invest limited resources, and the order of magnitude improvements that can be achieved in operational costs and efficiencies;
- ✓ Governing and oversight agencies gain insights into unique challenges and recommended corrective actions that can be shared to drive continuous improvements; and
- ✓ Have an actionable plan (i.e., ERP) that: Identifies, deters, detects, and prepares for these threats; reduces vulnerabilities of critical assets; and mitigates the potential consequences of incidents that do occur.

Avoid the risk of non-compliance, fines, and reputation!

Enrollment for the **Small Community Water Systems AWIA Compliance Assistance** is underway. If you would like to learn more, please provide your contact information via any of the options listed below. One of our team members will get back to you to answer any questions.

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