



Online Water Security

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From the Editor

Welcome to the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) free e-newsletter. When planning for water utility emergencies and responding to physical or environmental threats, WaterISAC believes information may be the best defense. So, as an expansion of our online, subscriber-based service, we share useful information and ideas via our e-newsletter.

THIS MONTH: We provide an overview of the new water security recommendations of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Water Security Working Group and take a look at some of the latest security resources and activities of the WaterISAC. In addition, we provide a link to an important upcoming Water Environment Federation/EPA Water Sector Security Workshop.

-Editor: Diane VanDe Hei, editor@waterisac.org

EPA ADVISORY GROUP APPROVES WATER SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Best security practices for drinking water and wastewater utilities were among the recommendations approved by the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at its June meeting. The best practices were included in the final report of NDWAC's Water Sector Working Group (WSWG). The findings also address incentive mechanisms to facilitate response in the water sector and methods to measure implementation of security practices.

The full report can be found online at [WSWG Final Report](#) (.doc file 788 KB).

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The recommendations define what constitutes an active and effective water sector security program. The report also identifies 14 features as core recommendations that all active and effective security programs should share. These features provide a structure that utilities can use to address their own security programs and identify areas for improvement. They also recommend creating close partnerships between utilities and the public health community and address the development of affordable and reliable contamination detection and monitoring devices.

Several findings focus on the creation of incentives for formation and continuation of water sector security programs. They suggest that EPA, DHS, industry associations and others devise methods to promote the benefits of a security program.

The WSWG, which first met in the summer of 2004, is comprised of 16 members from water and wastewater utilities, public health, academia, state regulators, and environmental and community interests. Technical experts from EPA, DHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense actively supported the WSWG's efforts. NDWAC has sent the recommendations to EPA for the agency's use in developing a framework for a sector-wide national aggregate measurement of security progress. The White House Office of Management and Budget requires EPA to define and assess performance measures for security.

DID YOU KNOW

..... that the WaterISAC has a current listing of ongoing security research projects underway at EPA, DHS, AwwaRF and WERF? This information is presented in a matrix format that organizes the information by area (e.g., online monitoring, emergency response), provides a title and brief description of the project and an estimated project completion date. The matrices are updated quarterly with new information and in some cases include interim fact sheets or progress reports. (WaterISAC subscribers can access the information in the "research in progress" folder of the WaterISAC library.)

..... that when a ricin threat was received at a post office in a North Carolina town, the WaterISAC contacted the subscriber utility in the area to inform them of the event? The WaterISAC also issued an analysis of the potential affects of ricin in the drinking water supply, and the effects of drinking water treatment on the poisonous agent to all subscribers.

Visit the WaterISAC secure portal to make sure you're on track with what's online! (If you are not a WaterISAC subscriber, click on the red button above to apply. Subscription fees range from \$200 to \$1,000, depending on the size of the utility, but the security resources available are priceless.)

WEF/EPA WATER SECTOR SECURITY WORKSHOP

The third and final Water Sector Security Workshop, presented by the Water Environment Federation through funding from EPA, is scheduled for July 6-8, 2005 in Chicago, Ill. The purpose of the workshop is to provide water and wastewater utilities and other key

stakeholders with a forum to develop a list of trends and needs that can enhance overall security of the nation's water sector utilities. Water sector utilities interested in participating should click the blue button above for more information.

The WaterISAC (www.waterisac.org) is the only centralized, secure, online resource of security threats that solely serves America's drinking water and wastewater utilities. The WaterISAC e-newsletter is a monthly electronic publication that highlights useful tips, case studies or analysis about water security.

P.S. Got questions, comments, or ideas for us?
Email editor@waterisac.org or call 1 866-H2OISAC (1 866-426-4722).



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