

DAAAlert...to Local and State Governments



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Utility Infrastructure Vulnerability is a Hot Topic

Grants Program to Privately-Owned Utilities for Vulnerability Assessments

Large, privately-owned community water systems are now eligible for vulnerability assessment grants from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water providers serving 100,000 or more people, can apply to the EPA for funding for emergency response plans and security enhancement planning and design.

Both non- and for- profit utilities may apply. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on August 30, 2002, but utilities should apply as soon as possible. This funding is intended to reduce the vulnerability of community water systems, and to enhance their security and ability to respond to emergency situations.

Applications can be found at www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm. For more information, visit http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/rfa_private_grants.pdf or call the EPA Drinking Water hotline at 800/426-4791.

For additional information concerning this grant program or questions about other funding topics, please contact Sheryl Stephens (sstephens@daa.com) at (804) 261-2915.

Free Vulnerability Self-Assessment Software for Public Wastewater Utilities

A new software program known as the Vulnerability Self-Assessment Software Tool (VSAT) is now available for public wastewater utilities. Funded by the EPA, this software organizes data, supports and documents vulnerability analyses and presents complex information in an easy-to-understand format. It is available free of charge from <http://www.VSATusers.net>. It is intended to help wastewater utilities analyze how vulnerable they are to both intentional threats and natural disasters. This free software is available to all public wastewater utilities.

VSAT is designed to help you answer and plan for the following questions:

1. What do we need to do to be prepared for human and natural extreme events?
2. How do we respond to these events should they occur?
3. How do we restore normal utility operations after responsive actions are complete?

Two training workshops are being offered by The American Metropolitan Sewerage Association this month to familiarize those interested with the features of the software. The AMSA was instrumental in developing this program. The workshops will be held Wednesday, Aug. 14 (12:30 - 4:30pm EST) and Tuesday, Aug. 20 (9:00am - 1:00pm EST), 2002. They can be accessed on line. Go to the AMSA's web site at <http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org/> for registration information.



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