



**Groundwater Vulnerability:
Protecting Water Supplies
from Outside Forces and Ourselves**

Requirements of the 2002 Preparedness and Bioterrorism Act *(Related to Water Supply)*

- Pipes and constructed conveyances;
- Physical barriers;
- Water collection, pretreatment, treatment, storage and distribution facilities;
- Electronic, computer or other automated systems which are utilized by the public water system;
- The use storage, or handling of various chemicals; and
- The operation and maintenance of such system.

The Vulnerability Assessment Goals

- Safeguard public health
- Reduce the potential for a disruption of a reliable supply of pressurized water

The Vulnerability Assessment Timeline

Milestones for Vulnerability Assessments Based on System Size

Public Water System Size (# persons)	Certification/Submission Date for Vulnerability Assessment	Emergency Response Plan Certification Date (in 6 months but no later than)
= 100,000	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

Elements of a Vulnerability Assessment (The Supplier Determines the Level of Detail)

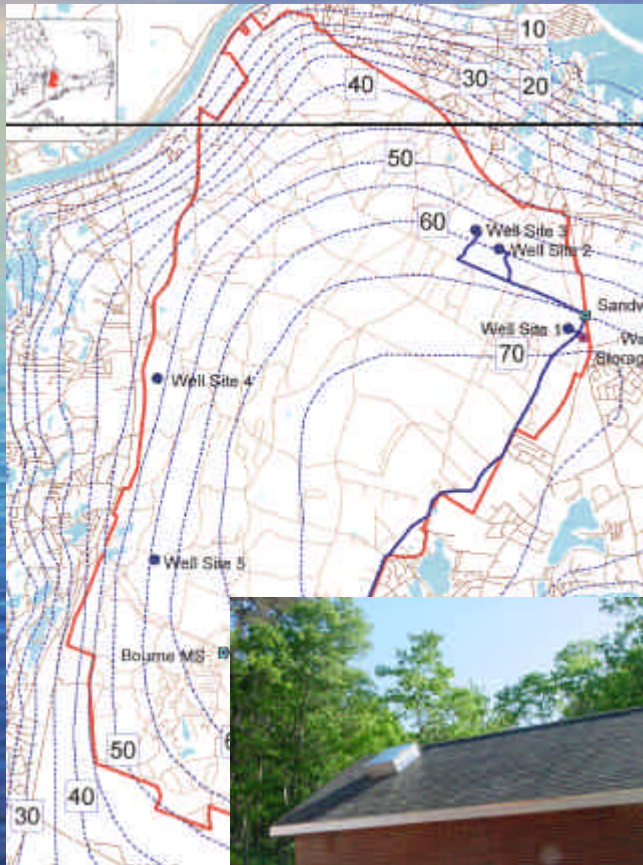
- *Element 1.
System Characterization.*
- *Element 2.
Identify potential adverse consequences.*
- *Element 3.
Determine what acts could damage critical assets.*
- *Element 4.
Assess the probability of acts from adversaries.*
- *Element 5.
Evaluate existing security conditions.*
- *Element 6
Assess risk and develop a prioritized risk mitigation plan.*

Element 1.

System Characterization

- Define who the system serves and what are their missions in regards to the highest priority of the customers (i.e. general public/military-hospital/retail space, **firefighting**).
- Identify the most critical assets of the system for achieving mission objectives.

Critical Assets - Source



Critical Assets - System



Element 2.

Identify Potential Adverse Consequences

- Identify the magnitude a disruption would cause to provide a safe, reliable and uninterrupted water source.



Element 3.

Determine What Acts Could Damage Critical Assets

- Physical damage to pipes and distribution;
(review flow diagrams, P&ID, SCADA)
- Contamination of water;
(review direct and indirect pathways, SWAP)
- Intentional release of stored chemicals;
(review storage practices and employees)
- Interruption of electricity.
(review back-up power and maintenance)

Element 4.

Assess the Probability of Acts From Adversaries

- Water supplies for military personnel would generally have a higher threat potential as a target compared to other community public water supplies.
- Identify level of threat.

Element 5.

Evaluate Existing Security Conditions

- Existing security measures usually include:
 - alarms
 - fencing
 - locks
 - lighting
 - could include cameras or frequent inspection by security personnel, depending on threat level.



Element 6.

Assess Risk and Develop a Risk Mitigation Plan

- Water quality vigilance
(risk mitigation begins at home)
- Water system upgrades
(redundancy and maintenance)
- Water system security upgrades
(maintenance)
- **Emergency Response Plan**

Conclusion

- A Vulnerability Assessment is a dynamic, performance based document.
- It serves as a guide for developing risk reduction options, as well as, associated capital and operating costs.
- It is an evolving process.

