



# UNDERSTANDING SECTION 2013 OF THE AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2018 AND ITS IMPACT ON COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

**A WHITE PAPER**

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Reliable utility services to support our homes and communities are paramount. In particular, potable water is equal to oxygen in terms of our need to survive, as safe drinking water is essential to our health and well-being. A community water system that provides this is a vital piece of the puzzle to our everyday lives, and one that citizens rely on from our utility providers.

## BREAKING DOWN THE REQUIREMENTS

The EPA didn't notify small and medium water utilities until recently of the AWIA requirements and its implications. Here's a quick summary of what you need to know:

### What's Involved

Section 2013 of the AWIA of 2018 requires community water systems that serve more than 3,300 customers to complete a Risk and Resilience Assessment and develop an Emergency Response Plan. This mandate looks not only at potential malevolent human acts but also encompasses natural hazards, how to react to mitigate those events, the financial infrastructure, the operation and maintenance of each system, and more. There are also requirements for regular recertification.

### Important Dates & Required Deliverables

Small and medium water utilities have until June 30, 2021, and December 31, 2020, respectively, to conduct a Risk and Resiliency Assessment, and submit certification of the completion of that assessment to the U.S. EPA. Following that, every five years each utility must review the assessment and submit recertification to the EPA that the assessment has been reviewed, and, if necessary, revised.

No later than six months after the Risk and Resiliency Assessment certification, each utility must develop or update an Emergency Response Plan certify completion of that document to the EPA. Deadlines for submission of this is December 30, 2021, for small systems, and June 30, 2021, for medium systems.

## THE BENEFITS OF A THIRD-PARTY PERSPECTIVE

Bringing in outside consultants is a common practice in many professions, and security consulting is no different. Smart owners and managers know that they're not experts in everything, and bringing in outside help is a sign of strength, not weakness. We offer expertise for compliance that you may not possess in-house:

- **We are the experts,** with a portfolio of supporting more than 40 water systems with AWIA and other security compliance needs. We offer the skills and abilities to start work immediately while allowing your staff to concentrate on their core responsibilities.
- **A fresh, unbiased opinion.** Viewing your operation from the outside, while recognizing what needs to be addressed, allows us to pinpoint gaps that need attention.

- **No vendor alignment.** While we rely on manufacturer's representatives to keep us informed about systems and hardware in the marketplace, we are not affiliated with specific vendors. Instead, we utilize our relationships with vendors to expand our knowledge base about availability and advances in equipment and technology, helping our clients make informed decisions about what is best for their business.
- It's **often economically prudent** to engage a consultant for a one-time effort of this type. Direct experience with successful Section 2013 compliance with other community water systems results in us spending a fraction of the time that others might spend on the same effort.

## THE IPARAMETRICS DIFFERENCE

The iParametrics team comprises certified staff by the American Water Works Association as AWIA 2018 specialists. Our engineers are licensed Professional Engineers and are certified by ASIS International as Certified Protection Professionals or Physical Security Professionals. Additionally, our cybersecurity specialists hold CISA certification. This team has direct experience supporting water systems with AWIA and other security compliance needs. Our cost-effective approach is tailored to your needs, whether it's completing the entire assessment and ERP, or just an over-the-shoulder review to fill in any gaps. As an independent third party, our only driver is your successful compliance

## TAKING ACTION

As leaders of community water systems, you understand that your facility's compliance with these requirements is paramount, and the iParametrics team is ready to lead you through the process. Eddie Wise, CPP, our Vice President of Security and Risk Management, is available for a phone conversation to answer your questions. He can also schedule an educational session for you and your staff that offers a deeper dive into the requirements and our approach.

You can reach Eddie at 678-592-7024 or [eddie.wise@iParametrics.com](mailto:eddie.wise@iParametrics.com). Contact him today to get started on the process to ensure your system's compliance!

