



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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December 21, 2022

CISA Guide on Resilient Power Best Practices for Critical Facilities and Sites

Dear PWS,

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently released the [Resilient Power Best Practices for Critical Facilities and Sites](#). The aim of this guidebook is to provide emergency and continuity managers with guidelines, analysis, background material, and recommendations to increase the resilience of backup and emergency power systems during all durations of power outages.

The document focuses on metrics, methods, and technologies to improve the resilience of backup and emergency generation sources, fuel quality and availability, energy storage, and renewable energy. The guide includes mitigation recommendations for cybersecurity, physical security, and electromagnetic (EM) events.

Action Requested:

PWS are strongly advised to go through this document and read the guidelines and include/update their existing emergency response resources/ plans with the applicable mitigation recommendations listed in the document. An advisory from CISA can also be found at the end of this email, which includes highlights from the Resilient Power Best Practices for Critical Facilities and Sites document.

If you have questions on Emergency Response Planning, please contact program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Resources:

[MassDEP Information on Emergency Response](#)

[MassDEP Cybersecurity Resources](#)

[Appendix O- Handbook for Water Supply Emergencies for more information](#)

Sincerely,

Yvette DePeiza, Director
Drinking Water Program

Advisory from CISA - Resilient Power Best Practices for Critical Facilities and Sites

Critical Infrastructure Colleagues and Partners,

Today the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released the [Resilient Power Best Practices for Critical Facilities and Sites](#). This document supports emergency and continuity managers with guidelines, analysis, background material, and references to increase the resilience of backup and emergency power systems during all durations of power outages. Improving power resilience can help the nation withstand and recover rapidly from deliberate attacks, accidents, natural disasters, as well as unconventional stresses, shocks, and threats to our economy and democratic system.

The *Resilient Power Best Practices* focuses on metrics, methods and technologies to improve the resilience of backup and emergency generation sources, fuel quality and availability, energy storage, renewable energy, and includes mitigations against cybersecurity, physical security, and electromagnetic (EM) events. The best practices are applicable to all durations of power outages at critical infrastructure facilities and sites excluding energy related utilities.

This document was developed by the Resilient Power Working Group (RPWG), which CISA established in 2019. The RPWG consists of subject matter experts and practitioners from across federal government, state and local governments, non-profits, and private industry. The working group's best practices support the comprehensive, risk-informed Business Continuity and Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning activities as defined in the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) guidance](#). The best practices cover:

- **Design, process, and telecommunications**, including Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercises (POETE).
- **Cybersecurity, physical security, and electromagnetic (EM) security** to protect the onsite or backup/emergency power system.
- **Diesel and natural gas emergency and backup power generation systems** including both procurement and maintenance considerations.
- **Power transfer systems and microgrids** to help ensure resilient power and to optimize the use of power generation sources.
- **Energy storage** both to ensure continuous regulated power prior to backup power generation and to increase the power resilience when using renewables.
- **Clean energy solutions** considering cost and resilience with renewable solutions (e.g., solar, wind, fuel cells) as well as small modular reactors (SMRs).

To read more about the RPWG, please visit [CISA.gov/resilient-power-working-group](https://www.cisa.gov/resilient-power-working-group). If you have questions or want to share your organization's successes with respect to these best practices, please contact Resilient.Power@cisa.dhs.gov.



Please note MassDEP new address: 100 Cambridge Street – Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114



The main Drinking Water Program number will continue to be 617-292-5770
To contact the Drinking Water Program email Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov
For Information on public drinking water visit <https://www.mass.gov/topics/drinking-water>

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040.
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep