



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

Date: April 14, 2025

Re: Reminder for Emergency Response – Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Certification – 6-Month Notice for Community PWS Serving a Population Over 100,000

Dear Public Water Supplier,

You are receiving this letter from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) because you are a Community Public Water System (PWS) serving a population over 100,000. Firstly, we want to thank you for your compliance with the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) certification with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and your continued work to plan and prepare for emergencies and to provide safe drinking water and protect public health.

This letter is to remind you that you must certify to EPA that you have updated your PWS's Emergency Response Plan (ERP) by **September 30, 2025**, in accordance with America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2013.

AWIA Section 2013, which amended Section 1433 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), requires community drinking water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). The law specifies the components that the RRAs and ERPs must address and establishes deadlines by which water systems must certify to EPA completion of the RRA and ERP. The law also requires that RRAs and ERPs must be updated and recertified every five years.

Round 1 of AWIA compliance took place in 2020/2021. Round 2 of AWIA compliance starts this year and will take place in 2025/2026. PWS are encouraged to review their RRAs and ERPs in light of emerging and ongoing threats to the water sector such as supply chain issues, cybersecurity concerns, and climate change impacts. A comprehensive list of requirements, resources, FAQs, fact sheets, training recordings, and guidance for updating your RRA and ERP can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013>.

Action Required

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact MassDEP at 617-292-5500.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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1. **Six months after submitting their RRA certification, but no later than September 30, 2025:** Community PWS serving a population over 100,000 must submit their ERP certification to EPA.
2. **By September 30, 2025:** Community PWS serving a population over 100,000 must also submit their ERP Compliance Checklist to MassDEP DWP in accordance with 310 CMR 22.03(13) and 310 CMR 22.15(9)(c)7.

Note: PWS are encouraged to submit their ERP certification ahead of these deadlines, if possible.

Note: Do not submit your updated ERP documents to EPA or to MassDEP, as those documents may contain sensitive information about your system.

Where to Submit Your ERP Certification

For EPA: PWS can submit their ERP certification via electronic submission, email, or regular mail. EPA strongly recommends PWS submit their certification via electronic submission, which can be completed at <https://encromerr.epa.gov/RegistrationRequest/OW--AWIA--AWIA%20Certifier?theme=awia>.

Where to Submit your ERP Compliance Checklist

For MassDEP/DWP: MassDEP DWP requires PWS to submit an ERP Compliance Checklist whenever there are substantive changes to a PWS's ERP. PWS should submit an updated ERP Compliance Checklist to MassDEP DWP once they have made updates to their ERP in compliance with Round 2 of AWIA. PWS can submit their updated checklists to the Program Director at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: ERP Compliance Checklist. The ERP Compliance Checklist is attached or available to download at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates>.

Where to get EPA's Guidance for Completing and Submitting Your RRA and ERP

EPA's Guidance for submitting your RRA/ERP certification and downloading the necessary Certification Statement documents can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan>. For EPA assistance regarding RRA and/or ERP certification, please contact EPA's Drinking Water Resilience hotline at dwresilience@epa.gov.

MassDEP/DWP cannot help you update your RRA and ERP, as those documents contain sensitive information about your PWS. However, you may reach out to MassDEP/DWP if you need to be connected to resources to help you update these documents. If you need additional information, please contact us at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: RRA/ERP Assistance.

Yours truly,



Yvette DePeiza

Program Director
MassDEP Drinking Water Program

Ecc: DWP chiefs, EPA, Katie Marrese, Denise Springborg, Kevin Reilly, Andrea Travaglia,
Mark Sceery

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