



AWIA RECERTIFICATION

Are you prepared to recertify your Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan?

Risk assessments and emergency plans are crucial steps in the emergency management cycle.

To comply with America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, drinking water utilities serving populations greater than 3,300 people are required by the U.S. EPA to review, revise, and resubmit their Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) every five years. Because updating existing RRAs and ERPs requires less extensive effort than during their initial development, now is an opportune time to bolster your plans with additional evaluations, implementation strategies, and training exercises.



AWIA Revision and Recertification Timeline

Population Served	RRA Submission Due Date	ERP Certification Due Date
≥ 100,000	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2025
50,000 to 99,999	December 31, 2025	June 30, 2026
3,301 to 49,999	June 30, 2026	December 31, 2026

Recommended Resources

AWIA does not require a specific methodology for conducting your RRAs or developing ERPs. Instead, it provides voluntary consensus standards recognized by the EPA.

Carollo uses and recommends the following standards and guidelines to facilitate RRA and ERP updates.

- AWWA J-100 Risk and Resilience Management of Water and Wastewater Systems methodology document.
- AWWA Cybersecurity Guidance Tool.
- AWWA M19 Emergency Planning for Water and Wastewater Utilities.
- AWWA G300 Source Water Protection.
- AWWA G430 Security Practices for Operation and Management.
- AWWA G440 Emergency Preparedness Practice.

Making your Emergency Response Plan Effective and Actionable

Developing more comprehensive, integrated, and user-friendly emergency plans and procedures is a key factor in their success, as well as your organization's overall resilience. It is important to develop plans that are:

- Easy to navigate.
- Easy for response teams to understand.
- Clear in delineating roles and responsibilities.
- Regularly validated and rehearsed.

Carollo can assist you with a comprehensive resilience strategy aligned with AWIA requirements

Fulfilling AWIA requirements is a critical first step in building a culture of preparedness. To maximize benefits and reduce hazard-related costs, your plans should be formulated in a way that makes them easy for response teams to navigate and understand their roles and responsibilities. In addition, supplementing your plans with a comprehensive resilience strategy that includes enhanced evaluations and assessments, exercises, and trainings helps your organization move beyond the planning phase to address all aspects of the emergency management cycle. Carollo can help you develop, implement, and validate your plans through a full suite of services, including:

- Updating your RRAs to meet AWIA compliance requirements and development of mitigation plans to avoid loss of service.
- Revising your ERPs to meet AWIA compliance requirements and identification of industry best practices to meet utility needs during an emergency.
- Training your staff on emergency capacities consistent with your utility's organizational structure.
- Validating your ERPs through simulation-based exercises.
- Creating a complete security master plan.
- Facilitating updates to your local hazard mitigation plan (addressing the evolving threats of natural hazards).
- Completing comprehensive (i.e., all hazards) mitigation and implementation planning.
- Completing enhanced cybersecurity evaluations.
- Completing detailed utility-wide operational assessments.
- Updating and/or creating your Business Continuity Plans and Continuity of Operations Plans.
- Completing an RRA and ERP for wastewater systems to prepare and protect your essential public services.

For more information on AWIA recertification and emergency response plans, contact George Whitten at gwhitten@carollo.com.