A large, white, spherical water tower stands prominently against a clear blue sky. The tower is supported by a tall, slender metal column. In the foreground, the tops of several green trees are visible, framing the base of the tower. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**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

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

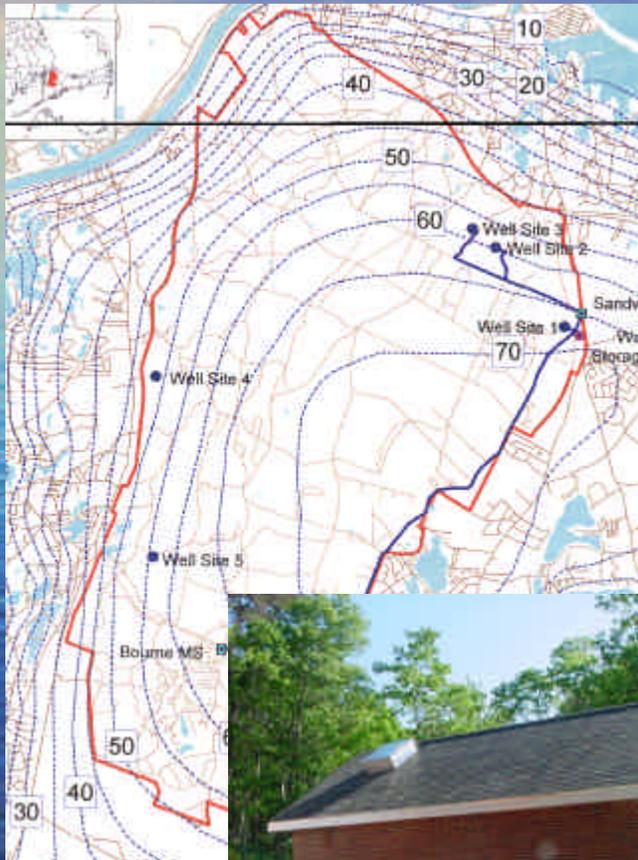
- *Element 1.*  
*System Characterization.*
- *Element 2.*  
*Identify potential adverse consequences.*
- *Element 3.*  
*Determine what acts could damage critical assets.*
- *Element 4.*  
*Assess the probability of acts from adversaries.*
- *Element 5.*  
*Evaluate existing security conditions.*
-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

