



# Drinking Water State Primacy Agency: Guidance Document for Emergency Planning and Response

## The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Environmental Health's Public Water Supply Section (PWSS) retained both the Horsley Witten Group (HW) and the URS Corporation (URS) to assist the agency to: (1) develop an emergency response guidance document, (2) create emergency response training materials, and (3) produce guidance materials, templates for conducting tabletop emergency response exercises, and direct and conduct an initial tabletop emergency response exercise. With the guidance document, HW and URS will describe and document resources available to the PWSS to help water system owners to evaluate potential intentional contamination threats and to mitigate those threats, if necessary. An important part of this document includes identifying the responsibilities of supporting state agencies, such as Health & Human Resources and Crime Control & Public Safety, which also have response roles to an intentional water contamination threat or incident.

HW and URS will also direct and conduct a tabletop exercise that will serve as an immediate test of the developed emergency response guidance document. In addition, the project team will create exercise parameters for tabletop drills and conduct a half-day training session on how to conduct tabletop exercises. HW and URS will also establish guidance for emergency response procedure audits so that state responders can assess whether they are up to standard and achieving a state of desired readiness. To help the PWSS to ensure that future tabletop exercises are planned and carried out, the project team will also investigate and report on federal or state grant programs that could serve as a source of financial resources for future exercises.

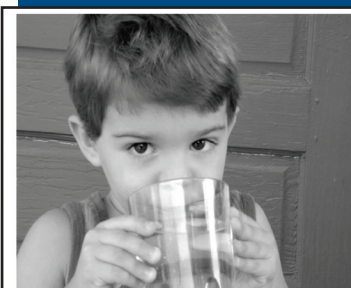
A unique aspect of this project is the water utility web-based survey to be conducted by HW and URS. Through this survey, the PWSS will learn what types of emergency assistance water suppliers in North Carolina are either expecting of or relying on from the state's drinking water primacy agency during an intentional contamination threat or incident.

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**Safe Drinking Water Guide**  
for owners of non-transient, non-community  
Public Water Systems using groundwater  
in North Carolina



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