

# FLORIDA WATER & CLIMATE ALLIANCE WEBINAR

## Water Utility Risk and Resilience to Climate Change Impacts

September 25, 2020  
10:00am - 12:00pm



# EPA America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) Risk and Resilience Assessments

## *Panelists:*

- **Carlos Garcia**, Expansion Project Administrator, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services Operations Division
- **Thea Dunmire**, Environmental Compliance Senior Manager, Tampa Bay Water
- **Debbie Griner**, Resilience Manager, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department

*Moderator:* Dr. Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency, South Florida Water Management District

# RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS:



## NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER UTILITIES

Section 2013 of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) requires community water systems<sup>1</sup> that serve more than 3,300 people to complete a risk and resilience assessment and develop an emergency response plan.

### RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

Your utility must conduct a risk and resilience assessment and submit certification of its completion to the U.S. EPA by the following dates:

#### Important Dates

- March 31, 2020 if serving  $\geq 100,000$  people.
- December 31, 2020 if serving 50,000 to 99,999 people.
- June 30, 2021 if serving 3,301 to 49,999 people.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Your utility must develop or update an emergency response plan and certify completion to the U.S. EPA no later than six months after risk and resilience assessment certification. Each utility deadline is unique; however, the dates below are the due dates for utilities who submit a risk and resilience assessment certification by the final due date according to the population served.

- September 30, 2020 if serving  $\geq 100,000$  people.
- June 30, 2021 if serving 50,000 to 99,999 people.
- December 30, 2021 if serving 3,301 to 49,999 people.

**Every five years**, your utility must review the risk and resilience assessment and submit a recertification to the U.S. EPA that the assessment has been reviewed and, if necessary, revised.

Visit the U.S. EPA website to find more information on guidance for developing a risk and resilience assessment at <https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/conduct-drinking-water-or-wastewater-utility-risk-assessment>.

**Within six months** of submitting the recertification for the risk and resilience assessment, your utility must certify it has reviewed and, if necessary, revised, its emergency response plan.

Visit the U.S. EPA website for guidance on developing an Emergency Response Plan at <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/develop-or-update-drinking-water-or-wastewater-utility-emergency-response-plan>.



## TOOLS OR METHODS

AWIA does not require the use of any standards, methods or tools for the risk and resilience assessment or emergency response plan. Your utility is responsible for ensuring that the risk and resilience assessment and emergency response plan address all the criteria in AWIA Section 2013(a) and (b), respectively. The U.S. EPA recommends the use of standards, including AWWA J100-10 Risk and Resilience Management of Water and Wastewater Systems, along with tools from the U.S. EPA and other organizations, to facilitate sound risk and resilience assessments and emergency response plans.

<sup>1</sup> Section 2013 of AWIA applies to community water systems. Community water systems are drinking water utilities that consistently serve at least 25 people or 15 service connections year-round.

*Still have questions about the new AWIA requirements?  
Contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) at [dwresilience@epa.gov](mailto:dwresilience@epa.gov).*

Office of Water (4608T)  
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## *Thea Dunmire*

### **Environmental Compliance Senior Manager, Tampa Bay Water**



Thea Dunmire is the Environmental Regulatory Compliance Senior Manager at Tampa Bay Water where she is responsible for developing programs and processes for compliance with environmental regulatory requirements. This includes leading the team that performed the risk and resilience assessment for meeting the requirements of the America's Water Infrastructure Act.

Before joining Tampa Bay Water, Thea participated in the development of a number of international management system standards representing the United States in ISO standard development activities. As part of this work, she collaborated with others across the world in drafting standards and guidelines for risk assessment and risk management. She has assisted organizations across a diverse range of industries in developing and implementing environmental, safety and health management systems in conformance with ISO standards.

Thea got her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in biomedical engineering and law degree from Syracuse University. She was an attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a partner at the law firm Dickinson Wright in Chicago and President of ENLAR Compliance Services prior to joining Tampa Bay Water.



# Carlos A. Garcia, PE, PMP

Expansion Project Administrator

Broward County, Florida

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At Broward County, Carlos is responsible for project management at Water and Wastewater Operations Division including, budgeting, procurement, negotiating, and contracts administration. He began his career as an Engineering Inspector and progressed through positions including Operations Supervisor, Design Engineer and Construction Project Manager.

Carlos has over 16 years of increasing responsibility and experience in utility engineering and construction project management in South Florida and three years' experience overseas. With a Bachelor's degree in Sanitary and Environmental Engineering from University of Valle, Colombia. Carlos is a Florida Registered Professional Engineer (PE), accredited Project Management Professional (PMP) and holds a Level 1 Florida DEP Water Distribution License. He also has a broad background in utility operations and construction scenarios, including water distribution security, utility relocations and improvements, utility maintenance programs, utility repair and rehabilitation (R&R) programs and capital improvement projects in water and wastewater industry.



## *Debbie Griner, ENV SP*



### **Resilience Manager, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department**

Debbie Griner has 24 years of public service, the majority of which has been with Miami-Dade County working on environmental compliance, permitting, planning, County and regional sustainability and climate change initiatives, including a role in the development of the County's first community-wide sustainability plan and the Regional Climate Action Plan.

She joined the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department in 2017 to lead the Resilience Program in operationalizing resilience throughout department programs. Program priorities include continuing the successful water conservation efforts, expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, and reducing vulnerabilities through increasing the utility's ability to adapt more readily to acute shocks and longer-term stresses and the adoption of sustainable policies and practices.

Debbie serves as the Secretary on the Resilient Utility Coalition Board of Directors. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Florida International University, with a minor in Biology. She earned the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) designation and provides guidance on applying the rating system in infrastructure planning, design, and operation.





QUESTIONS