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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH




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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHDWB Circular Letter 2021-60

TO: Public Water Systems, Certified Operators
FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief 
DATE: August 10, 2021
SUBJECT: Memorandum from the White House on National Security - Cybersecurity

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) would like to share a [Memorandum](#) released by the White House on improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Systems. This Memorandum builds on an industrial control systems cybersecurity initiative, a voluntary, but collaborative effort between the Federal Government and the critical infrastructure community to significantly improve the cybersecurity of these critical systems. The primary objective of this initiative is to defend critical infrastructure by encouraging and facilitating deployment of technologies and systems, that provides threat visibility, indications, detection, and warnings, and that facilitate response capabilities for cybersecurity in essential control system and operational technology networks. The goal of the initiative is to greatly expand deployment of these technologies across priority critical infrastructures. The initiative began with a pilot effort with the Electricity Subsector and is now followed by a similar effort for natural gas pipelines. Efforts for the Drinking Water Sector Systems will follow later in 2021.

Cybersecurity performance goals are a key component of this initiative. The Secretary of Homeland Security will issue preliminary goals for control systems across critical infrastructure sectors **no later than September 22, 2021**, which is less than 60 days away. These preliminary goals will be followed by the issuance of final cross-sector control system goals within 1 year of the date of this memorandum. Additionally, following consultations with relevant agencies, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue sector-specific critical infrastructure cybersecurity performance goals within 1 year of the date of this memorandum. These performance goals should serve as clear guidance to owners and operators about cybersecurity practices and postures that the American people can trust and should expect for such essential services.

Please reach out to me at Lori.mathieu@ct.gov if you have any questions regarding this.

Encl: [National Security Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Systems](#)

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