
SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2003

SUBJECT: **Interlocal Agreement with EPA to accept a \$115,000 Grant to Reimburse the Department of Public Utilities for a Vulnerability Assessment of Drinking Water Facilities**

AFFECTED COUNCIL DISTRICTS: Citywide

STAFF REPORT BY: Gary Mumford

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT. AND CONTACT PERSON: Department of Public Utilities
Brad Stewart, Engineer VI

KEY ELEMENTS:

Federal funds have been approved to reimburse the Department of Public Utilities for a vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan re-write for drinking water facilities. The objective of the study was to reduce the vulnerabilities of drinking water facilities to terrorist attacks.

MATTERS AT ISSUE:

The Department of Public Utilities increased security at the water treatment facilities and prepared an emergency response plan prior to the Salt Lake Olympic Games. Recent federal rules required an additional security study of all major drinking water providers. The Department of Public Utilities hired a security consultant to make the assessment, which was completed last spring and submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a result of the study, the Department of Public Utilities made some changes to operating procedures, reporting measures, emergency manuals, and increased the fencing at some facilities. The Department has been awarded a grant for \$115,000 from the EPA to reimburse the Department for activities relating to the vulnerability assessment and emergency plan re-write and some related planning costs.

OPTIONS:

A resolution is appropriate with this interlocal agreement because it meets one of the criteria in the Interlocal Cooperative Act that requires Council action (i.e. agreements that include an out-of-state public agency).

1. Consider a resolution authorizing the approval of an interlocal agreement to accept the grant funds.
2. Request additional written information.
3. Schedule a work session briefing.

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the Department of Public Utilities hired a security consultant to help develop a security plan to prepare the department for natural disasters, public health emergencies and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. The security plan included preparation of a risk assessment of Public Utilities facilities and an operational plan. . Last year, President Bush signed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act of 2002. This act requires a security study of all major drinking water providers. The Department of Public Utilities hired a security consultant to update a revise the 1999 plan to meet the requirements under the new law. The assessment was completed last spring and submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For security reasons the Department can't release the security procedures in detail, but the following are some of the general measures.

- The most critical water facilities are patrolled 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Additional security cameras have been installed.
- Electronic surveillance has been increased.
- Water quality monitoring capability has been increased at the treatment plants and throughout the water system.
- Staff has received various levels of training to recognize and respond appropriately in the event of suspicious or threatening events.
- The water system is designed to allow the isolation of any water source. Each storage site can be cut off from the distribution system.
- The Department routinely monitor for a number of biological contaminants as a part of the Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory requirements.
- Policies have been implemented to improve the security of chemical deliveries, and also supplier and contractor access to critical facilities
- The Public Utilities Emergency Response plan has been re-written to include sections on security, threat assessment, and biological and chemical contamination of the drinking water.
- Their plan also includes guidelines on mitigation, response and recovery from terrorist events.

cc: Rocky Fluhart, LeRoy Hooton, Ed Rutan, Christopher Bramhall, Brad Stewart, JD Baxter
