

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2003 2:36 PM
Subject: UPDATE: WATER SYSTEMS AT RISK FROM WITHIN

Industry Outlook - 2/13/2003 11:53:37 AM

Water systems told terrorism could come from within facilities

WASHINGTON — The latest terror alert from the FBI and the National Infrastructure Protection Center said critical industries and key infrastructure should take steps to guard against potential terrorist attacks, including checking for possible infiltrators among employees.

The [Associated Press](#) (AP) reported that a government bulletin went out Wednesday to companies involved in such key industries, including water systems.

Officials at the American water Works Association said this week that there are no specific threats to water supplies, but that the security alert is being taken very seriously.

Nationwide, officials in the water and wastewater industry, as well as many other sectors, went on high terror alert because of feared attacks by the al Qaeda terrorist network against US targets at home and abroad that could be trigger by the possibility of war with Iraq.

The Wednesday bulletin repeated warnings from the FBI and CIA that al-Qaida and sympathizer groups may attempt to use chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction, AP reported.

According to AP, the bulletin said that officials should check Internet sites describing their facilities and "consider how that information might assist terrorists interested in planning an attack. Operatives will likely research potential targets extensively prior to an attack."

Officials should also examine whether there are threats from "insider" employees who may have been sent to infiltrate their facilities, according to the news service.