Background: As required by the Capacity Development Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all community water systems, and nontransient, non-community water systems are expected to demonstrate technical, managerial and financial capacity. Emergency response plans have been identified by USEPA as a tool that will be used to measure Managerial and Financial Capacity.

The Illinois Section of the American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) is working closely with Illinois EPA to disseminate information and educational programs to assist with the implementation of the SDWA Amendments. ISAWWA has the resources available to develop an interactive self-study CD to assist both the community and non-community water systems in their emergency response planning.

In addition to emergency planning development, and continuing education credits to participants, feedback from participants will be compiled and set up with internet access for integration into a Big Brother and Buddy System Program, as identified by USEPA to encourage partnerships between water systems.

The contract for the Interactive Guide with the Midwest Technology Assistance Center, University of Illinois was signed and the project initiated in late March 2000. The CD is now completed and has begun initial distribution and the internet version of the CD is up and operational.

The Committee: A committee was formed consisting of 10 people including representatives from public and private water utilities, manufacturers and rural water systems. This committee provides input from successful emergency plans completed, review of material along with case studies of municipalities experiencing emergency situations.

Theory: The Interactive Guide will be designed with interactive learning techniques. In addition to the Introduction, there are four main sections of the Emergency Planning CD: What is Emergency Planning, Four Phases of Emergency Planning, Reports and References. Within each of those sections, there are numerous subsections ranging from Types of Emergencies, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation along with the Reports. Reports are compiled as a result of information entered during the execution of the CD. Reports can be printed and integrated into the utilities Emergency Response Plan.
Objective: Develop an interactive CD to aid in the Emergency Planning for community water systems. Also, access to the information will be available via the Internet through MTAC and the ISAWWA websites. As part of the Emergency Planning Guide, water supplies will be encouraged to share resource information that will be posted on the ISAWWA's website as a preliminary start to the Big Brother and Buddy System Program information online database. Information included is based upon applicability to multiple states and will not be specific to Illinois.

Access to the CD and Internet information is at no cost to the water supply. For those who would like to earn contact hours by completing the guide, there will be a minimal charge for administering the test procedures of $20.00 per participant through the Illinois Section AWWA

Status: Version 1.0 of the CD is completed. 40 CD's have been forwarded to the Midwest Technology Assistance Center for distribution. An additional 30 CD's have been distributed to related water associations and neighboring AWWA Sections for review. The CD is comprehensive and upon completion of the questionnaires incorporated into the CD, the participant can print several reference reports to be incorporated into their Emergency Planning Guide.

The internet version of the Emergency Planning Guide is available on the ISAWWA and MTAC websites. The Big Brother database is also on-line on the ISAWWA website.

Publicity has begun for the CD. At the recent ISAWWA Computer Conference there were over 30 requests for the CD from participants after a demonstration of the product.

Advertising will now be placed in the Fall issue of Splash Magazine, the ISAWWA website and the Board Update advertising the completion and availability of the CD. The CD will be publicized and demonstrated at the Annual ISAWWA Meeting to over 800 anticipated attendees. It is also anticipated that publicity of the CD will follow in major national publications relating to water issues.

Evaluation: Distribution of the CD and access to the website Guide are available both from MTAC and the Illinois Section AWWA. Recipients who request a copy of the CD will be recorded at ISAWWA and retained for future follow-up on the value of this project.

Follow-up: It is anticipated that a hard-copy workbook will be published in 2001 for distribution with or in lieu of the electronic version of the Emergency Planning Guide.