New York Wastewater Cybersecurity Preparation Guide

For POTW owners, SPDES permittees, certified operators and their IT and OT teams.

Edition 2026-11-03 · Part of the New York Audit Preparation Pack at newyorkcomputerforensics.com/resources/new-york-cybersecurity-audit-preparation/

DEC's March 2026 amendments to 6 NYCRR Parts 616, 650 and 750 split wastewater cybersecurity into three duties: incident reporting for every SPDES permittee, plans and controls for publicly owned treatment works, and training for certified operators. Record the permit, the facility, its design flow and the official who signs the annual certification, then work through the rows below and the companion CSV.

DEC duties and dates

Requirement	Timing and rule	Record to keep
Incident reporting, all SPDES permittees	In effect since March 26, 2026. Submit the online report within 24 hours of becoming aware of a reportable incident, then notify the Regional Water Engineer or Regional Water Manager orally; submit the second online report within 30 days. 6 NYCRR 750-2.7(h)	Both reports, the oral notice and the incident chronology
Emergency response plan, POTWs	From March 11, 2027, with the cybersecurity incident response plan incorporated as an annex or appendix and contact information updated within 30 days of a change. 6 NYCRR 750-2.9(d)	Controlled copies on and off site and exercise records
Cybersecurity controls, POTWs	From March 11, 2027: access control with MFA for remote OT access, vulnerability management, cyber asset inventory and a documented secure network structure. 6 NYCRR 750-2.9(e)	Procedures, inventory, network description and annual reviews
Network monitoring and logging	From March 11, 2027 for POTWs with a design flow of 10 million gallons per day or more. 6 NYCRR 750-2.9(e)	Monitoring scope, log sources and retention
Operator training	Grades 1, 1A, 2 and 2A: two contact hours every five years; grades 3, 3A, 4 and 4A: four contact hours, in DEC approved courses, for certifications expiring on or after January 1, 2027. 6 NYCRR Part 650	Course approval and completion records
Annual certification	First due March 28, 2027 and every March 28 after, filed through nForm and signed by the principal executive officer, ranking elected official or a duly authorized municipal representative.	Signed certification and the records behind it

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Preparation checklist

Work through each row with the owner of the record. The companion CSV in this pack (wastewater-preparation-checklist.csv) carries the same rows with columns for status, owner, evidence reference and open questions.

ID	Topic	Record to gather	Next step	Source
WW-01	Permit and facility scope	Record the SPDES permit, POTW status, design flow and the legally responsible party.	Separate the reporting duty every permittee has from the POTW controls and the 10 MGD monitoring threshold.	6 NYCRR Part 750; DEC wastewater resources
WW-02	Incident reporting route	Gather the incident triage route, the authorized reporter, the Regional Water Engineer contact and DEC's online reporting instructions.	Submit the online report within 24 hours of awareness, notify the Regional Water Engineer orally, and file the second report within 30 days.	6 NYCRR 750-2.7(h)
WW-03	Emergency response plan and IRP	Locate the emergency response plan and the cybersecurity incident response plan and their controlled copies.	Fold the incident response plan into the ERP as an annex before March 11, 2027.	6 NYCRR 750-2.9(d)
WW-04	Access and vendor control	Gather account inventories, remote support methods, MFA for remote OT access, approvals and termination records.	Reconcile the access rules with the paths that actually reach treatment and collection systems.	6 NYCRR 750-2.9(e)
WW-05	Vulnerability management	Gather the written vulnerability management process covering OT, findings and the corrective action register.	Review the process annually and plan any production testing with the operator.	6 NYCRR 750-2.9(e)
WW-06	Network structure and monitoring	Gather the network description separating OT from IT and external networks and the monitoring scope decision.	Facilities at 10 MGD or more need monitoring and logging from March 11, 2027.	6 NYCRR 750-2.9(e)
WW-07	Operator training	Gather each operator's grade, certification expiration and DEC approved cybersecurity course records.	Schedule the required contact hours before certifications expiring on or after January 1, 2027 renew.	6 NYCRR Part 650
WW-08	Annual certification	Index the evidence, exceptions and open work, and identify the authorized signatory.	Prepare the first certification for March 28, 2027 for signature by the principal executive officer, a ranking elected official or a duly authorized municipal representative.	DEC wastewater resources, annual certifications

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Sources

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Wastewater Cybersecurity Resources (amendments to 6 NYCRR Parts 616, 650 and 750, adopted March 11, 2026). SPDES incident reporting under 750-2.7(h), POTW plans and controls under 750-2.9(d) and (e), operator training under Part 650 and annual certifications. Checked 2026-11-03. https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/wastewater-treatment-resources/wastewater-cybersecurity-resources

Scope Your Assessment

The first call is a free consultation with a senior security lead. We review the systems, the review or audit you face and its timing, and recommend the assessment depth that answers it. Requests are handled in confidence.

Call (800) 868-8189, 24/7 · New York office (212) 561-5860

Email info@evestigate.com or request your consultation at newyorkcomputerforensics.com/contact.

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