

Water Legislation

The Clean Water Act – This is the major law regulating water quality in the US establishing a framework for regulating discharges of water pollutants.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) This Act, originally passed in 1974, protected public health by regulating the nation's drinking water supply. The law's amendments require many actions to protect drinking water as well as its sources: rivers, lakes reservoirs, springs and groundwater wells.

Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act – This 1977 Act and its amendments provide for a continuing appraisal of US soil, water and related resources including fish and wildlife habitats and a soil and water conservation program to assist landowners and land users in furthering soil and water conservation.

Water Desalination Act of 1996 – This Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies on the desalination of water and water reuse, thus encouraging further research and development.

Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 - Title IV of this Act focuses on Drinking Water Security and Safety, amending the SDWA for community water systems to be assessed for system vulnerability by a terrorist or other intentional attack. It focuses on both infrastructure and the prevention, detection and response to potentially-introduced contaminants, either of which could substantially disrupt the ability of the system to provide a safe and reliable supply of water.

