



NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
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GBRA IMPLEMENTS Y2K PLAN

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SEGUIN- The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority announced today that it has completed all possible precautions to prepare for Y2K contingencies in each of its eleven operating divisions.

GBRA began implementing its year 2000 preparedness program almost two years ago by establishing two separate project teams.

Angela Baxley, network administrator, headed up the group that focused on GBRA's internal operations at the Seguin General Office. GBRA staff, in cooperation with a Houston-based consulting firm, tested all internal processes and equipment, including hardware, software, and network servers. Equipment deemed to be Y2K compliant was retained and updated as needed. Any non-compliant equipment was replaced.

The team also developed and tested a contingency plan for the Seguin operations. In the event that electrical power is interrupted or non-functional, a standby emergency generator equipped with an uninterrupted power supply is in place to supply whatever power is needed in order for GBRA to continue its internal operations.

The second group consisted of GBRA's operating divisions, each of which was responsible for constructing its own contingency plan. At each division location, additional treatment chemicals and supplies have been ordered to continue to supply water-related services. Standby generators and additional fuel are in reserve, where needed. Additional manpower will be available as well as radio equipment that can function as a backup to regular communications.

Along with their customer cities, GBRA is prepared to respond to any Y2K related emergencies at the GBRA water treatment, wastewater treatment and rural utility departments in the upper and lower basins. Exercise drills have been conducted at the divisions to test communication equipment and review their contingency plans.

"Working with our customer cities, we feel that we have taken all prudent steps to avoid any disruption of services. We will have additional people on duty and standby to implement contingency plans" said John Smith, GBRA manager of utility operations.

GBRA has also contacted suppliers and vendors of equipment that might be affected and identified the "mission critical" items. Where appropriate, all necessary testing on equipment has been completed and contingency plans have been developed.

GBRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1935 and provides vital water-related services to communities, industry and agriculture including the operation of drinking water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, hydroelectric generation powerhouses, water quality testing services and several parks and recreation areas. Since GBRA cannot levy taxes and receives no tax monies, its revenues come from the products and services GBRA provides to customers.