

## Water terrorism a factor in review of potential US targets

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has nearly completed a "super-critical list" of potential terrorist targets — including water supplies — that, if struck, would cause the greatest damage to the nation in terms of lives, money, national defense and public confidence.

The list arises from what White House officials said was one of the most comprehensive examinations ever done of the nation's physical infrastructure, including water supplies, the [Orlando Sentinel](#) reported.

Besides identifying the most glaring vulnerabilities, a team led by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge is putting together a report that will recommend steps the government and the private sector should take to tighten security.

Specific water supplies and facilities have not been mentioned by the Bush administration.

"We will let you know how we reviewed it, how we made the assessments, maybe generically some kind of recommendations," Ridge said in the article. "But we certainly don't want to be telegraphing our defenses to the enemy."

Ridge said the assessment would put "a sharper point" on weaknesses uncovered since the 11 September terrorist attacks, but the public will not be told the most sensitive findings, the newspaper said.

Vulnerability assessments have been carried out for many water and wastewater facilities in the nation, funded by federal grants. The process is still ongoing for many others.

The report will cover 13 "critical infrastructure" categories, including agriculture; food; water; public health; emergency services; government; the defense industrial base; information and telecommunications; energy; transportation; banking and finance; the chemical industry; and postal and shipping operations.