Disaster Recovery Planning Policy Background

New, Update or Sunset Review? Sunset Review.

What due diligence was conducted to determine the content of this policy/standard? If this is an update or sunset review, provide information as to what changes were made, if any, as well as reasons behind the policy/standard content.

This is an update to the existing policy 151. Changes were made based on workgroup and community feedback to improve clarity for agency adoption and accountability. Updates to this standard draw from NIST SP 800-34 Rev. 1, Contingency Planning Guide for Federal Information Systems and NIST 800-53 Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations.

What is the business case for the policy/standard?

- Disaster recovery planning is essential for ensuring that mission critical and business essential functions can be resumed in the event of a disruption.
- Implementation of governance that limits runaway liability to operational, financial, safety, and reputational impacts

What are the key objectives of the policy/standard?

- Create a common understanding of disaster recovery planning requirements.
- Require testing of disaster recovery plans to validate contingency and recovery procedures.

How does policy/standard promote or support alignment with strategies?

Disaster recovery planning strengthens IT architecture security. Documentation of planning and validation supports accountable government.

What are the implementation considerations?

- Implementing a DRBC program requires an investment in planning, resources, and regular testing
- Small agencies have the option of contracting WaTech for support. WaTech will also provide templates and consultation for DR planning for agencies of all sizes.
- Prioritization of training and testing and coordination of efforts for interdependent systems.

How will we know if the policy is successful?

Specific: All agencies will document and test disaster recovery plans for mission critical and business essential functions.

Measurable: Agencies will validate test plans.

Achievable: The requirement for exercising plans was adjusted to every other year to ensure agencies have time to exercise each component of the plan.

Relevant: The recent pandemic demonstrated the need for agility in returning to normal operations that are not always identical to the original state.

Timebound: Agencies must complete DR reviews and testing annually as a minimum.

Equitable: Agencies of any size can rely on WaTech for support with DR planning, templates and tools.