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**ASSESSING UTILITY VULNERABILITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE:
NEW YORK CITY PILOT STUDY**

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ABSTRACT: Climate change adds a layer of complexity to the already substantial challenges facing water utility managers. As future conditions become increasingly less certain, decision processes responding to these changes are necessarily evolving away from a deterministic prediction-based paradigm to one based on vulnerability identification and adaptation planning. A planning processes serious about addressing climate change must (1) acquire and/or develop data describing the link between potential future climate conditions and risk (Risk Identification), (2) modify analytical frameworks to assess the impact of different climate regimes on desired system outcomes (Risk Assessment), and (3) adopt a decision analysis framework that can evaluate adaptation strategies against climate-related risks (Risk Management). A fortunate corollary of such a process is that it also places water utilities in a better position to respond to other planning uncertainties beyond those related to climate change (e.g. demographic change, regulatory change). In response to the changing conditions for water managers due to climate change, the Water Research Foundation commissioned the project "Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Management Tools for Climate Change: Assessing Potential Impacts and Identifying Adaptation Options."; The goal of the project is to develop a framework for assisting "water utilities in identifying and managing risks associated with potential impacts from climate change."; As part of the project the methodology will be tested by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) and Colorado Springs Utilities. This presentation will describe the NYCDEP pilot test of the climate change vulnerability methodology, including the scenarios to be evaluated, projected future climate data input, and modeling tools utilized. This presentation will provide other utilities substantial insight into the progress of a seminal climate change project being conducted for the primary benefit of water utilities.

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