



Risk Management  
Fund

# RISK ALERT

## NOVEMBER 30, 2023

### RISK ALERT

#### Municipal Water Authority's Programmable Logic Controllers Hacked

Programmable Logic Controllers were taken over by an Iranian hacker group this past Saturday at a water district in Alquippa, Pennsylvania. The attack originated from a group called CyberAv3ngers who seized control of a booster pump at the Municipal Water Authority in Alquippa. The incident was reported to Homeland Security who sent out an alert through their Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). They reported "the cyber threat actors likely accessed the affected device, the Unitronics Vison Series PLC with a Human Interface, 'by exploiting cybersecurity weaknesses, including poor password security and exposure to the internet.'" (*Business Insurance Daily Briefing*, "CISA warns water authorities about hacking attempts", November 29, 2023)

The Unitronics plc is manufactured in Israel and the attack carried a "warning against using equipment made in Israel." CISA and the Fund's Cyber Risk Services Advisor, Lee Cain recommend the following cyber best practices:

- Frequent change of passwords
- Passwords with a more complicated structure
- Disconnecting water system controllers from the internet, *(as possible)*
- Require multi-factor authentication
- Make sure your operating systems are kept up to date with the most recent software "fixes" and patches
- Ensure users are getting regular cyber training with particular emphasis on Phishing and Social Engineering exploits
- Test Incident Response Plans annually

If you have questions about this alert, please contact Lee Cain at [lee.cain@sedgwick.com](mailto:lee.cain@sedgwick.com) or 512-619-1437. This cyber service is part of your membership to The Fund and is *no additional cost*

**Business Insurance: CISA Warns Water Authorities About Hacking Attempts**

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