

West Virginia

Water loss is an important issue in West Virginia, where approximately 79% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), West Virginia's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 184.96 million gallons of water per day for treatment and distribution to customers. Those public water suppliers face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$1.39 billion for West Virginia's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agencies with jurisdiction over water loss reporting are the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau of Public Health (BPH). All utilities are required to submit annually to PSC a report on unaccounted-for water (UAW), which must include a proposed remedial plan if UAW exceeds 15%.

Additionally, by July 1, 2016, all utilities must submit an updated or completed Source Water Protection Plan to BPH, which must include a report on UAW over the previous year. If UAW exceeds 15%, the Source Water Protection Plan must also identify any remedial measures the utility is taking.

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2015", September 28, 2017- <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59a96d18e4b07e1a023db323>

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress", March 2018 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf

Rule reference: WV Code of State Rules § 150-7-5.6 - http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/WVWSET/resources/Title_150_Series_07

Senate Bill No. 373 (enacted March 8, 2014, effective June 6, 2014) - <http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/abovegroundstoragetanks/Documents/FINALSB373-The%20TankBill.pdf>