

New Hampshire

Water loss is an important issue in New Hampshire, where approximately 63% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), New Hampshire's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 95.52 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 \$1.01 billion for New Hampshire's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). Water systems with water conservation plans that include water accounting – which consist primarily of applicants for new water withdrawal permits – are required to submit an annual water balance, defined as “the difference between the system input volume and authorized metered consumption.” If water loss exceeds 15%, the utility is required to complete and submit a full water audit, pursuant to the AWWA methodology, along with a plan to reduce water loss to below 15% within two years. Upon DES approval, the utility is required to implement the plan.

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

NHDES Water Balance and Audit Information -

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/water_conservation/documents/waterbalanceinfo.pdf

Water Conservation Annual Water Balance Reporting Form -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/annualwaterbalance>

Rule Reference: State New Hampshire Water Conservation Rules, Env-Wq 2101

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-wq2101.pdf>