

## **New York**

Water loss is a particularly important issue in New York, where approximately 87% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), New York's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 2,424.65 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 \$22.77 billion for New York's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agencies with jurisdiction over water loss reporting are the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS).

Under NYSDEC's public water supply program, utilities must include in an annual report data on the amount of water "lost to distribution system leakage," without specifying any methodology. Additionally, NYSDEC's "water conservation program form," which applicants for new or modified public water supply permits must submit, requests information on unaccounted-for water.

Under NYSDOH regulations, public water suppliers are required to provide customers with an Annual Water Quality Report. For systems with customer metering, the annual report must include "an accounting of the total annual amount of water withdrawn, delivered, and lost from the system." DPS regulates 277 private water companies serving approximately eight hundred thirty thousand people. Regulated utilities must "maintain records on an annual basis of non-revenue producing water use and shall use prudent means to minimize lost and unaccounted-for water." The rule defines non-revenue water to include "lost and unaccounted-for water as well as other nonmetered uses of water." If non-revenue water exceeds 18 percent in any year, this must be reported to the PSC along with a description of planned remedial measures.

## **Delaware River Basin Commission Requirements**

While New York has not adopted water loss auditing requirements, those water systems located in the New York portion of the Delaware River watershed are now preparing and submitting annual water audit reports under regulations of the Delaware River Basin Commission, a regional agency formed by interstate compact and made up of representatives of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the US Government. In 2009, the DRBC added a requirement to its Water Code (section 2.1.8) that all utilities located in the Delaware River Basin submit annual water audits beginning in 2012 using the AWWA Free Water Audit Software.

## **The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact**

New York is one of eight states that border the Great Lakes, which comprise more than one-fifth of

the world's surface supply of freshwater and more than 95 percent of the surface freshwater supply in the U.S. Management and use of water in the Great Lakes states is governed by the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement and Compact. In ratifying the Compact, each state agreed to undertake a series of actions, including the establishment of thresholds governing new or increased withdrawals of water and development of water conservation and efficiency programs. The implementation of a water loss accounting program can help New York comply with the water conservation and efficiency requirements of the Compact.

NYSDEC Annual Reporting Form ([http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/wwwnonag.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wwwnonag.pdf))

NYSDEC Water Conservation Program Form ([http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/wcpf.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wcpf.pdf))

NYSDOS reporting guidance:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/annual\\_water\\_quality\\_report/guidance.htm#six\\_one](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/annual_water_quality_report/guidance.htm#six_one)

DPS regulations – 16 NYCRR 503.8

<http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/49775FD17CDEE7F285257C910059DEED?OpenDocument>

DPS information on regulated private water companies –

<http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/B01A5970C4E06CE785257687006F388E?OpenDocument>

“Great Lakes Facts and Figures” -- [great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html](http://great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html).

“Protecting a Shared Future: Assessing and Advancing the Sustainable Management of the Great Lakes Through Water Conservation and Efficiency”-- [nrdc.org/water/files/greatlakescompact.pdf](http://nrdc.org/water/files/greatlakescompact.pdf).

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](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf)

Delaware River Basin Commission –

“Analysis of Calendar Year 2012 Water Audit Data from Public Water Supply Systems in the Delaware River Basin.” February 2015.

<http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/wateraudits/CY2012audit-report.pdf>

“Analysis of Calendar Year 2014 Water Audit Data from Public Water Supply Systems in the Delaware River Basin.” February 2016.

<http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/wateraudits/CY2014audit-report.pdf>