

Tennessee

Water loss is a particularly important issue in Tennessee, where approximately 91% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Tennessee's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 849.69 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 \$8.76 billion for Tennessee's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Water & Wastewater Financing Board. A water audit conducted utilizing the AWWA water loss methodology and Free Water Audit Software is required for inclusion in annual audited financial statements that are submitted to the Comptroller of the Treasury. The decision on this requirement occurred on October 7, 2010 and was restated and confirmed on June 6, 2012.

The Comptroller's office has also established graduated performance targets, as follows: Minimum Data Validity score required is 65 in 2013, and graduates to 80 in 2019. Nonrevenue water cost as a percentage of total operating cost must be less than 30% in 2013, and graduates to less than 20% in 2017.

Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury - <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/wwfb/>

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

State Code Reference: TN Code 7-82-401(h): <http://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2010/title-7/chapter-82/part-4/7-82-401>