

## **Minnesota**

Water loss is an important issue in Minnesota, 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), Minnesota's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 515.24 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 \$7.51 billion for Minnesota's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water systems is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Water loss auditing is not required. Public water suppliers that serve 1,000 people or more are required to include demand reduction measures in their water supply plan. Although "reducing water losses" is included in the list of demand reduction measures that can be implemented, water loss auditing of utility distribution systems is not specifically identified or promoted.

The Department has yet to incorporate AWWA audit terminology in its regulations. To receive a water appropriation permit for increased water volumes or new wells, a water system must have its "unaccounted for water" below 10%, or propose a plan to reduce water losses.

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

Minnesota 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 Minnesota comply with the water conservation and efficiency requirements of the Compact.

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)

Legislative Requirement for Public Water Supply Plan - <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=103G.291>

Public Water Supply Plans -

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/appropriations/eandc\\_plan.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/eandc_plan.html)

Demand reduction measures -

[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/appropriations/demand\\_reduction\\_measures\\_introduction.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/demand_reduction_measures_introduction.pdf)

Water Supply Plans and Water Appropriation Permit Approvals -

[http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/uploadedFiles/Resource\\_Center/Library/United\\_States/Minnesota/MN-Permit-Approvals-Document.pdf](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/uploadedFiles/Resource_Center/Library/United_States/Minnesota/MN-Permit-Approvals-Document.pdf)

“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).