

Wisconsin

Water loss is an important issue in Wisconsin, where approximately 72% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Wisconsin's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 479.38 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 \$8.57 billion for Wisconsin's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin. The PSC regulates all publicly-owned and investor-owned water utilities in the state. Chapter 185.85 of the PSC Administrative code requires all utilities to implement certain minimum water conservation and efficiency measures, which include water loss control program implementation, controlling water loss and leaks in the distribution system and the reporting of an annual water audit to the PSC, no later than April 1 of the subsequent year.

Greater than 15% water loss is considered excessive for large systems, and 25% for small systems, triggering compliance action.

The PSC is presently developing a plan to move a requirement for the AWWA Free Water Audit Software as the format for annual water loss reporting.

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

Wisconsin 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 PSC's plan to require the AWWA Free Water Audit Software as the format for annual water loss reporting is an important part of Wisconsin's compliance with the water conservation and efficiency requirements of the Compact.

Wisconsin State Legislature PSC 185.85 -

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/psc/185/VIII/85

Water Loss Benchmarks - <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/water/waterLossBenchmark.htm>

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

"Great Lakes Facts and Figures" -- 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.