

WATER LOSS CONTROL PROGRAMS

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Guidance Document

Water Loss Control Programs

Developed By Black Mountain Utility District

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This guidance document is intended for the utility to use to recognize and reduce water loss in the eight PWS ID that it serves

It is designed to guide the development and implementation of a water loss control program. Two other Guidance Documents, “Leak Detection and Repair Programs” and “Water Audits”, are recommended as additional resources in developing water loss control programs.

When to use this guidance document: For Black Mountain Utility District described above using water derived for water loss control program. This program must be implemented when water loss raises above 15% and any system that Black Mountain Utility District maintains.

How to use this guidance document: This guidance document is organized into 3 parts: Part 1: – Provides an overview of water loss control programs, including management strategies and activities to reduce water loss. Part 2: Description of the Program – Provides a detailed discussion of the main elements of the program and related compliance requirements. Part 3: – Provides a Water Loss Control Program Annual Reporting Form annual reporting form for water systems to use in tracking annual water loss and thus gage compliance with regulatory agency's.

Contact: If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Black Mountain Utility District at (606)573-1277.

PART 1: Overview of Water Loss Control Programs

SUMMARY

Water loss from a water distribution system is a significant factor affecting water delivery to customers. Water loss can be either: (a) the **apparent losses** due to meter inaccuracies or unauthorized consumption, or (b) **real losses** due to leakage at water service lines, breaks or leakage on mains and hydrants or at storage facilities. By using loss prevention methods such as the flow meter zoning regular leak detection replacing pipe or service lines in problem areas. Black Mountain Utility District will be able to promote a more thorough assessment of water loss among its water system.

This guidance document relies on The maintaining Water Supply Practices: “Water Audits and Leak Detection and flow meter pits and zone master meter . Further information on these documents can be obtained from [Black Mountain Utility District](#) See “Additional Resources” below in this Guidance Document for additional information and examples of water loss control programs.

BASIC DATA AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

Awareness that water loss is occurring in a water system is the first step in identifying leaks and making repairs. Once water loss has been documented and identified, a water system operator can then determine whether the water loss is a real loss or an unavoidable loss. The first step in accounting for water used and lost in a water distribution system is appropriate data collection, especially from water meters. Important data needed to assess water use and loss in a system include:

A) Information relating to the water system infrastructure:

- water master meters (quantity, age, diameter, type, location, accuracy);
- water mains (age, material, diameter, length, location, depth, condition);
- water service lines (quantity, material, diameter, location, depth, length);
- valves (quantity, age, diameter, type, location);
- fire hydrants (quantity, age, type, location);
- customer water meters (quantity, age, diameter, type, location, accuracy);
- storage tanks (volume, location, type);
- bulk metering of water imported and water exported (quantity, age, diameter, type, location, accuracy).

B) The quantity of potable water supplied to the water distribution system including water imported and existing system sources, such as:

- source water delivered via a water purification/treatment plant;
- groundwater from wells delivered via a water purification/treatment plant; and
- purchased water (water imported)

C) The quantity of water metered or consumed and non-revenue water lost within the distribution system; and

D) Operations and maintenance activities within the water distribution system, such as:

- 1) continuous water system pressure readings;
- 2) maintenance activities related to water mains (e.g. number of water main breaks/repairs each year, blow-offs for water quality or freezing concerns, water main replacement or rehabilitation programs, water main flushing programs, discharges at pressure relief valves, etc.);
- 3) hydrant use or maintenance activities (e.g. physical inspection, fire flow testing, leaks on hydrants, etc.);
- 4) valve maintenance activities (boundary valve between two different pressure zones, pressure-reducing valves within the water distribution system, maintenance on valve stems, seats, leaks on valves, check valve maintenance and inspection);
- 5) water service and curb box inspection and maintenance (leaks on service connections);
- 6) active leak detection programs; and
- 7) tank use (filling/emptying throughout the day, cleaning, and tracking)

ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE WATER LOSSES

Most water loss can be prevented by effective and pro-active infrastructure management. The following infrastructure management activities will help reduce real water losses:

- Distribution system operation and maintenance to prevent breakdowns in equipment and the associated leakage (valves, hydrants, etc.)
- Material and construction standards to assure quality of future infrastructure installation
- Maintain proper inventory to repair all sizes of main breaks or leaks
- Inspection of new water mains; observance of pressure and leakage tests
- GIS mapping of system components in order to quickly find valves to isolate main breaks
- Report leaks, repairs, complaints, theft, vandalism, etc, by geographic location to concentrate future leakage activities
- Increased surveillance in areas with aging infrastructure or reported leaks
- Periodically checking proper operation and control of pumps used to fill storage tanks
- Leak detection surveys/studies and leak repair
- Water main rehabilitation and replacement
- Pressure management

The following activities will help reduce apparent water losses:

- Metering of all source inputs, water exports or sales, and customer accounts (includes both billed, authorized use and non-billed authorized)
- If not going to meter hydrant usage, accurately estimate and record the water used for fire fighting or flushing
- Billing practices designed to detect potential problems or inconsistencies
 - Obtain consistent customer readings near the same day each month
 - Eliminate or reduce human error by installing automated meter readers
 - Account for non-billed authorized usage (such as hydrants)

- Deterrence of theft or illegal usage by maintaining a visible presence, aggressively prosecuting those caught, and soliciting public involvement in reporting such crimes
- Accounting and record keeping practices to improve reliability and accuracy of the water balance; more easily pinpoint areas with water losses

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WATER LOSS

There are numerous ways to reduce the loss of water. Deciding which program to use will depend on the condition of the local water infrastructure and the areas where water loss is occurring. Black Mountain Utility District will consider one or all of the following programs to help in the reduction of water loss in their distribution system:

- metering;
- leak detection and repair for water systems;
- water efficiency/conservation (reduces apparent loss);
- valve maintenance;
- pressure management including surge suppression;
- infrastructure renewal;
- conservation (reduces apparent loss);
- speed and quality of repairs;
- design standards for construction methods and pipe material;
- nighttime flow analysis (reduces apparent loss).

applying these strategies and activities will benefit through reduced water loss and reduced costs to the utility. The importance of prioritizing active leak control practices and procedures in the identification of water loss and the corresponding strategies to reduce leakage cannot be understated. The district will not only increase revenues, but will also benefit through the extension of sustainable water supplies, reduced operating costs, improved system hydraulics and utility efficiency, and improved environmental stewardship.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AWWA WATER AUDIT DOWNLOAD WWW.AWWA.ORG

KRWA IN BOWLING GREEN KENTUCKY

RCAP

Part 2: Main Elements of a Water Loss Prevention Program

Implementation of the comprehensive water loss control program must consist of at least the following actions:

- 1) The district must adopt standard leak detection and loss recovery methods, such as reimbursements for excavation damage, theft and vandalism.
- 2) The district must determine its current volume of apparent and real water loss, and its volume of economically recoverable apparent and real losses. This will be completed annually by the utility recorded on the forms in Part 3 of this document.
- 3) The district may take up to three years to develop a validated data set for all entries of their water balance. The goal should be for 95 percent of all data to be validated at the end of the first three years of implementation. This could be done using approaches such as:
 - Testing source meter accuracy;
 - Testing customer meter accuracy (Water Meter Calibration, Repair, and Replacement)
 - Component Analysis to identify background losses, and reported or unreported leaks;
 - Establishment of “District Metering Areas” to monitor and quantify real losses for portions of its distribution system, such as:
 - o Locations with a known history of leakage;
 - o Locations which may assist in quantifying the losses from other portions of the system where it may be difficult to directly apply district metering techniques;
 - o Locations that are being newly designed and constructed.

Recommended milestones for validation are:

- a) Year 1: audit to include validated values for the largest production or import meter supplying the system.
 - b) Year 2: audit to include (i) validated values for all production and import meters; (ii) validated values for all customer meters sized 4 inches or more; and, (iii) validated values for distribution system pressure for at least 50% of the distribution system.
 - c) Year 3: audit to include (i) validated values for all customer meters sized 2 inches or more, and a statistically valid sample of all remaining customer meters, i.e., those less than 2 inches; and (ii) validated values for distribution system pressure for the entire distribution system.
- 5) Corrective Actions. The utility must implement intervention measures that yield apparent and real water savings. Leak detection and repair must be a continuous effort.

The utility must reduce system leakage to an minimum of 15% and repair reported leaks when reported and cost-effective to repair. In addition to repairing all reported leaks, the utility should consider the following intervention measures to reduce components of un-reported leakage and background leakage:

- i. Sonic Leak detection surveys;
- ii. Installation of data loggers;
- iii. Accelerated repair of reported leaks;
- iv. Regular measurement of District Metered Area flows;
- v. Replacement of leaky water mains and laterals; and
- vi. Pressure management.

Part 3: Water Loss Control Program Annual Reporting Form

All volumes should be entered as annual volumes. Where possible, metered values should be used.

I. GENERAL SYSTEM INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Reporting Year | |
| Water System Operating Permit No. | |
| Water Withdrawal Permit No. | |
| Water System Name | |
| Water System Address | |
| Contact Person Name | |
| Contact Person Phone No. | |

II. SYSTEM DATA

| | | |
|----------|--|-------|
| A | Length of water mains, (miles) | miles |
| B | Total active and inactive service connections | |
| C | Total Length of customer service lines (miles) (Average length of customer service line measured in feet x B) / 5280 ft/miles | miles |
| D | Average Distribution System Operating Pressure, (psi) | psi |

III. VOLUME OF WATER SUPPLIED TO THE SYSTEM

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| E | Total volume of water produced from own sources (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| F | Total volume of water purchased from other systems (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| G | Master meter error adjustment (under-registered million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| H | Total volume of water sold to other systems (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| I | NET VOLUME OF WATER SUPPLIED, (E + F - G - H) | MG/yr |

IV. VOLUME OF WATER AUTHORIZED FOR CONSUMPTION

| | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| J | Billed metered (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| K | Billed unmetered (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| L | Unbilled metered (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| M | Unbilled unmetered (million gallons per year), <i>estimate if applicable</i> | MG/yr |
| N | TOTAL VOLUME AUTHORIZED FOR CONSUMPTION, (J + K + L + M) | MG/yr |

V. ANNUAL WATER LOSSES

| | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| O | Water Losses = Water Supplied - Authorized Consumption, (I - N) | MG/yr |
| P | Apparent Losses: | |
| Q | Unauthorized Consumption (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| R | Customer metering inaccuracies, <i>estimate</i> (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| S | Data handling errors (million gallons per year) | MG/yr |
| T | Apparent Losses, (Q + R + S) | MG/yr |
| U | Real Losses: | |
| V | Real Losses = Water Losses - Apparent Losses, (O - T) | MG/yr |
| W | Volume of NON-REVENUE water, (O + L + M) | MG/yr |

CERTIFICATION OF WATER LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR PROGRAM:

To be signed by the official of the water system operating this water system. I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 02/01/2024 Signature: Grant Cooper

Title: GENERAL MANAGER