

State of Indiana
Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Review
December 8, 2009

The State of Indiana submits the following Water Conservation and Efficiency Program review to the Regional Body and Compact Council pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Agreement Article 300 and Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

1. Lead agency/agencies:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

2. Status of Indiana's Water Conservation and Efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the basin-wide goals and objectives:

The State of Indiana's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives are in the process of being developed, and will be consistent with Indiana's Water Management Policy that *"recognizes that Indiana's abundant resources are a public good for all citizens of the State, and promotes the efficient use of this water by encouraging environmentally sound and economically feasible conservation measures to ensure availability for future generations"*.

3. Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Overview.

- a) The following statutory provisions will be applicable to or used to inform development of the Water Conservation and Efficiency program in the State of Indiana:
- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (IC 14-25-15)—Interstate agreement on the use of water resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.
 - Indiana's legislation enacting and implementing the Compact calls for the Indiana Natural Resources Commission to adopt rules that implement voluntary water conservation and efficiency programs (IC 14-25-15-5).
 - Significant Water Withdrawal Facility Registration (IC 14-25-7-15)—Requires that an inventory of significant uses of water withdrawn from the surface or ground is taken and maintained. Section 15 of the act requires that every person who owns a significant water withdrawal facility (SWWF) shall register it within three (3) months after the facility is completed. A "significant water withdrawal facility" is defined in the act to mean "the water withdrawal facilities of a person that, in the aggregate from all sources and by all methods, has the capability of withdrawing more than one hundred thousand (100,000) gallons of ground water, surface water, or ground and surface water combined in one (1) day". Owners of a SWWF must also report annual water use within three (3) months after the end of each calendar year. Approved methods of measuring the amount of water withdrawn by a SWWF are specified in the Nonrule Policy Document

Information Bulletin #40. Water withdrawals from temporary construction dewatering operations must also be reported in accordance with IC 14-25-7.

- Sale of Water (IC 14-25-2, 312 IAC 6.3)—Conservation planning required in application for the sale of water from Reservoir financed fully or in part by the State.
 - Emergency Water Rights (IC 14-25-4)—Emergency Regulation of Groundwater—Owners of small capacity water wells are protected against the impacts of high capacity ground-water pumpage if it substantially lowers water levels, resulting in the failure of a small capacity well. Restrictions of high capacity pumping can occur when it is believed that discharge exceeds the recharge capability of the source aquifer
 - Emergency Regulation of Surface Water Rights (IC 14-25-5)—Freshwater lake owners are protected against the impacts of high capacity pumping if it substantially lowers the level of the freshwater lake, resulting in significant environmental harm to the lake or adjacent property. Restriction of high capacity pumping can be required in order to restore lake level.
 - Water Shortage Task Force (IC 14-25-14)—Ten-member Water Shortage Task Force was charged with updating and implementing Indiana’s Water Shortage Plan that provides an effective and systematic plan to assess and manage the State’s water resources during a water shortage or potential water shortage to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to the needs of its water users while protecting the environment. Indiana’s Water Shortage Plan was updated in 2009.
- b) Indiana’s Water Management Policy and applicable statutory requirements will provide a framework for the State’s Water Conservation and Efficiency Program and will be consistent with the regional objective as specified in Resolution 6 by promoting the following:
- Public Education and Outreach that identifies appropriate water management practices and water conservation methods, and stresses the economic, environmental, and social benefits of wise water management. Appropriate water pricing and incentive structures, such as increasing block rate pricing and water rates that increase during water shortages.
 - Development of a Statewide Water Management Plan that promotes improvements in water management practices, such as watering lawns, gardens, and farm fields efficiently, using water efficient fixtures in homes and businesses, using drought resistant landscape practices, and using reclaimed or lower quality water for irrigation, industrial, and other appropriate non-potable uses.
 - Identification and Dissemination of Water Management Practices, such as demand and supply analyses, that will increase water use efficiency.

- Application and Sharing of Available Science and Research regarding water management, water conservation, and water use efficiency.

4. The State of Indiana promotes environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures as specified in Indiana’s Water Shortage Plan (updated 2009) as follows:

Indiana’s Water Management Policy—Indiana’s Water Management Policy recognizes that Indiana’s abundant water resources are a public good for all citizens of the State, and promotes the efficient use of this water by encouraging environmentally sound and economically feasible conservation measures to ensure availability for future generations.

Suggested Model Ordinance—The Model Ordinance describes a suite of measures including good management practices at all times, potential price increases for water during times of shortage, and enforced rationing during periods of extreme water shortage. While some of the measures in the ordinance may not apply in all situations or locations, the purpose of the measures is to encourage wise use of the resource and to minimize the impacts of seasonal or short-term water shortages.

Outreach & Education—Targeting Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities

- Focus of educational efforts directed at Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities realizing that conservation efforts result in a reduction in water use, therefore such efforts are potentially most effective where water use is greatest.
- Water use conservation and efficiency information has been mailed on two occasions to all 3600 registered high capacity facilities within the State. Specific user groups were targeted with information applicable to their registered use type.
- Suggested conservation and efficiency practices include the following:
 - Appointment of a Water Conservation Manager & development of a Water Management Plan.
 - Whole System Maintenance—Identification of leaks in delivery and distribution, preservation of optimal operation pressure, maintaining gauges in good working order, testing regularly, system calibration, identification and repair of pressure problems.
 - System Controls Improvement—Implementation of a comprehensive water accounting and loss control program including system inspections, universal metering, and leak detection and repair. Processes that use large volumes of water for washing, rinsing or cooling should be outfitted with a dedicated water meter.
 - Accurate metering at all levels is essential.

- Identify and prioritize opportunities to reduce or reuse water; such as cooler flush water, rinse water, backwash water, floor and gutter wash water, turn off all flows during shutdowns, & use solenoid valves to stop the flow of water when a process stops.
 - Water Use Audits—Good conservation programs depend on accurate use data. Conducting water use audits assesses water demand on a system by system or process by process basis; with the goal is to generate a set of data that profiles water demand at all stages.
 - Educate and involve employees in water conservation initiatives. Invite presentations and seminars by appropriate agencies or organizations.
 - Consider a reclaimed wastewater distribution system for non-potable purposes.
- Water Management Planning Framework is being developed to assist water users with their conservation planning efforts, especially those registered as Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities. Guidance documents will be directed to those facilities that may not currently have conservation requirements as part of daily operating procedures and will encourage facilities to more readily develop and implement conservation and efficiency programs on a voluntary basis.

5. The State of Indiana’s timeline for implementation of voluntary Water Conservation and Efficiency Program.

- The State of Indiana intends to meet its obligations under Section 4.2 of the Compact, including development of water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the basin wide goals and objectives by December 8, 2010 (two years from the effective date of the Compact).
- Public outreach and input regarding development of Indiana’s program has begun, and will continue through the coming year.
- The Department of Natural Resources will work with the Natural Resources Commission to propose and pursue adopt of rules on voluntary water conservation and efficiency programs.