



# Water Loss and Leak Detection Services

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) offers services to help utilities detect and manage water loss. Reducing the amount of water loss can be a significant conservation measure for utilities. By minimizing water loss, utilities can increase their efficiency, improve their financial status, reduce the need to search for additional water sources, and help sustain long-term water supplies. A consistent approach to auditing water loss gives utilities a reliable means to measure water loss and implement changes to reduce loss.

The Texas Legislature requires that all retail public utilities in Texas file a water loss audit with the TWDB once every five years. The last scheduled audit was for the year 2015 and was due May 1, 2016. In addition to this requirement, any retail public water utility that has an active financial obligation loan with the TWDB or has more than 3,300 connections is required to file a water loss audit annually.

## Water Loss Audits

TWDB staff is available to assist utility personnel with current water loss accountability methods and procedures. The TWDB also has an online water loss audit worksheet for utilities, which can be accessed at [www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss).

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature appropriated funds to the TWDB to streamline online data collection for the agency's water planning and conservation programs. The primary purpose of the Loss, Use, and Conservation Project is to eliminate redundant data entry for the required reporting documents, the Water Use Survey, the Water Loss Audit and the Conservation Annual Report, and to improve the data collection process and the quality and consistency of that data.

Currently, common data from a utility's submitted water use survey auto-populates in the utility's water loss audit. The integration of data from the water use survey into the water loss audit should be of benefit to the reporting entities while ensuring consistency and validity of the reported data.

When completed, the Loss, Use, and Conservation Project will remove much of the frustration associated with duplication of effort in fulfilling annual reporting requirements as well as providing a resource for use by the reporting entities and for water planning, outreach, and assistance considerations.

## Water Loss Assistance

TWDB staff is available to work with utility managers in providing onsite water loss audit assistance. Staff is able to perform consultant-type work and review the water loss audit worksheet with utility managers so that they have an understanding of how the water loss audit benefits the utility.

The TWDB also offers water loss audit and leak detection workshops. The workshops provide utilities the opportunity to learn how water loss audits can help them implement effective water loss control programs, how to use the TWDB's online data collection system where audits are submitted, and how to successfully account for water use and loss. The workshops are approved for four hours of continuing education units for licensed water operators through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The TWDB Water Loss Audit Manual provides information on conducting a water loss audit and implementing a water loss program. It can be accessed at [www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/brochures/conservation/doc/WaterLossManual\\_2008.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/brochures/conservation/doc/WaterLossManual_2008.pdf).

Additional information on water loss services can be found at [www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/resources/waterloss-resources.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/resources/waterloss-resources.asp).

## Leak Detection and Flow Meter Equipment

The TWDB lends acoustical leak detection equipment to utilities for 30 days. The only expense for utilities is the return shipping. The device has headphones and a ground microphone that can pinpoint leaks on a variety of pipe sizes and materials. The TWDB also lends ultrasonic flow meters to utilities for 30 days. Again, the only cost is the return shipping. More information about this equipment can be accessed at [www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/leak-detection.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/leak-detection.asp).

To obtain more information regarding water loss audits or available leak detection equipment, contact conservation staff at (512) 463-0987 or [WLAGroup@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:WLAGroup@twdb.texas.gov).