



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Service Commission Approves Updates to Conserve Water, Save Money

MADISON, WI – At an open meeting today, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) unanimously adopted a final version of Clearinghouse Rule 11-029, updating utility construction and water conservation and efficiency program regulations. The rule makes changes to chapters 184 and 185 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

“Excessive water losses hurt the bottom line for consumers because a utility must purchase electricity and chemicals to produce water that is lost through leaks before it can be sold,” said PSC Chairperson Phil Montgomery. “The new rule improves the tracking and reporting of water leaks in distribution systems, which will both conserve water and save customers money.”

Clearinghouse Rule 11-029 will clarify and simplify the procedures for approval of construction projects, service area extensions, and related projects. Under the new rule, the PSC will focus on projects that will have a significant impact on ratepayers, such as new wells and treatment facilities. This rule provides the first update of water utility construction requirements in nearly 20 years.

The rule will also implement the PSC’s conservation programs for water utilities, update water loss standards, consolidate provisions related to water supply emergencies, and establish criteria for voluntary customer incentive and rebate programs. The changes will provide greater clarity and flexibility to water utilities in implementing water conservation and efficiency programs to benefit consumers.

The changes found in the rule are the culmination of the Commission’s water conservation and efficiency efforts that began in 2007. Documents associated with the rule can be viewed on the PSC’s Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Type docket number 1-AC-232 into the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on the Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

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The PSC is a national leader in promoting water conservation and was named a WaterSense partner of excellence for 2011. The Division of Water, Compliance, and Consumer Affairs (DWCCA) works with Wisconsin water utilities to implement measures that promote the efficient and sustainable use of water. More information about the PSC’s water conservation programs can be found at: <http://psc.wi.gov/water>.