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**PSC releases new resources to help water utilities and their customers**

**[Madison, WI]** – The Public Service Commission (PSC) recently released several resources designed to help Wisconsin’s 582 public water utilities and their customers compare trends in water use and rates across the state. The new, interactive Wisconsin Residential Water Rates Dashboard is designed to facilitate comparison of residential water bills between utilities of varying characteristics, including system size, customer demographics, and geographic location.

According to the 2015 Wisconsin Water Fact Sheet, infrastructure-related capital costs, along with rising chemical and energy costs, continue to drive up production costs. While water utilities pumped 8.5 percent more water in 2014 than they did in 2013, retail sales declined slightly, and average residential customer water use declined as well. The increase in gallons pumped is largely attributable to the exceptionally harsh conditions experienced during the winter of 2013/2014, when utilities experienced a higher than usual incidence of main breaks and advised their customers to run water to prevent further breaks and protect distribution systems.

“Thanks to sound resource management practices, I am happy to say that Wisconsin communities continue to have access to plentiful and high quality public water supplies,” said Ellen Nowak, PSC Chairperson. “The PSC provides valuable assistance that enables the state’s water utilities to improve their financial health, protect limited resources, ensure economic vitality, and stabilize rates. I am proud of the fact that, as a result of this good work, national partners are eager to work with us to enhance the already high quality assistance we provide.”

A link to the Wisconsin Water Residential Rates Dashboard can be found at:

<http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/water/waterRatesDashboard.htm>

The 2015 Wisconsin Water Fact Sheet is available at:

<http://psc.wi.gov/conservation/documents/WaterFactSheet15.pdf>

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