

# Illinois Lake Michigan Water Allocation Program

## Conservation Requirements

By state law, Lake Michigan Water Allocation permittees must comply with state regulations of the Illinois Lake Michigan Water Allocation Program. The allocation program was established by the State under its Level of Lake Michigan Act of 1996, 615 ILCS 50. This law authorizes the Office of Water Resources (OWR) of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to manage the allocation of Lake Michigan water among regional organizations and municipalities. Part of these regulations include the requirement for permittees to implement water conservation as a condition to their allocation permit. The conservation requirements are designed to meet Illinois' obligation under state law and the U.S. Supreme Court Decree. According to *17 Ill. Admin. Code*, Part 3730.307 all permittees shall:

- Submit to IDNR proposals to reduce unaccounted-for flows to 8 percent or less, based on net annual pumpage, and procedures to determine efficiency of water metering or accounting in their system.
- Submit evidence of adoption of the following conservation practices:
  1. Leakage monitoring and correction for storage, transmission and distribution system leakage.
  2. Metering of all new construction.
  3. Metering of existing nonmetered services as part of any major remodeling.
  4. Ordinances which require installation of the following water efficient plumbing fixtures based on a pressure at the fixture of 40 to 50 psi in all new construction and in all repair or replacement of fixtures or trim<sup>1</sup>:

<b>Fixtures</b>	<b>Maximum Flow <sup>1</sup></b>
Water Closets, tank type	3.5 gal per flush
Water Closets, flushometer type	3.0 gal per flush
Urinals, tank type	3.0 gal per flush
Urinals, flushometer type	3.0 gal per flush
Shower Heads	3.0 gal per minute
Lavatory, sink faucets	3.0 gal per minute

<sup>1</sup> These flows are being revised to be consistent with National Plumbing Fixtures Standards which take precedence.

5. Ordinances which require the installation of closed system air conditioning in all new construction and in all remodeling.
6. Ordinances which require that all lavatories for public use in new construction or remodeling be equipped with metering or self closing faucets.
7. Ordinances which require that all newly constructed or remodeled car wash installations be equipped with a water recycling system.

8. Ordinances which restrict non-essential outside water uses to prevent excessive, wasteful use. As a minimum, these restrictions shall provide that unrestricted lawn sprinkling will not be allowed from May 15 through September 15 of each year.
  9. Development and implementation of public programs to encourage reduced water use.
- Limit hydrant use to 1 percent or less of net annual pumpage.
  - Adopt water rate structures based on metered water use and consider water rate structures which will discourage excessive water use.
  - A permittee using water from deep aquifer pumpage shall submit a phased program designed to end this practice, other than for emergency or standby use, within five years of the receipt of Lake Michigan water. (This is designed to reduce over-utilization of the deep bedrock aquifers.)
  - For applicable permittees, reduce to a reasonable minimum, and accurately account for, water used for navigational, lockage, and leakage purposes; and pollution treatment, control or abatement purposes.