

Technical Workshop: Improving Water Efficiency, Loss Control and Your Bottom Line with AWWA M36 Methodology

January 14, 2014 / Columbia SC

M36 Water Audit Data Input Reference Sheet

| | Things to consider | Your notes – include where you got the data, any calculations made, and any assumptions made. |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| WATER SUPPLIED | | |
| Volume from own sources | Are all Finished Water (FW) inputs metered; how many FW meters are in place; How often are the FW meters accuracy-tested – both hydraulic flow verification and electronic signal calibration; | |
| Master meter error adjustment | How are the FW meter readings recorded and archived; How often is the production data reviewed for errors; | |
| Water imported | Any bulk purchase agreements; Are they metered; How often are those meters accuracy-tested (hydraulics and electronics); | |
| Water exported | Any bulk sale (wholesale) agreements; Are they metered; How often are those meters accuracy-tested (hydraulics and electronics); | |
| AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION | | |
| Billed metered | Are all customers metered and read; How often are those meters tested for accuracy; How is the billing data archived; Need to make sure your consumption totals <u>exclude</u> any non-potable water such as sewer only accounts, deduction meters, raw water, reclaimed water, etc; Are there adjustments that need to be made for lag-time on customer meter readings; | |
| Billed unmetered | Any estimated or flat-rate billings; Any unmetered contractor sales; | |
| Unbilled metered | Any unbilled municipal or utility buildings; Any metered operational uses like W/WW Treatment facilities; | |
| Unbilled unmetered | Includes but not limited to any flushing, jetting, street cleaning, fire suppression/training/testing, irrigation, special events, unmetered facilities; This will typically require input from more than 1 department; | |

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| WATER LOSSES | | |
| Unauthorized Consumption | Theft can happen at the hydrant and at the tap/meter; Is theft documented when it's observed; Are there penalties for theft and are they enforced; Is there a clear policy for fire hydrant access/usage; | |
| Customer Metering Inaccuracies | Any accuracy test data on the customer meters; General condition of meter population; Do you have good meter records (inventory of types, cumulative use); How often are meters replaced or repaired; Consider these questions differently for small v large meters; | |
| Systematic Data Handling Errors | What quality control reports are in place in the billing system; Is billing data routinely audited; Are adjustments clearly recorded; Do inactive or zero-use accounts get removed from reading routes after some time period? | |
| SYSTEM DATA | | |
| Length of mains | Paper v GIS; Are mapping records spot checked in field for verification; How are new line extensions / abandonments recorded and added to the database; | |
| # of active + inactive connections | Understand exactly how an account becomes inactive in the database; Are inactive accounts spot checked in field for verification; Cross reference total number of active accounts v how many bills are sent each billing cycle; | |
| Average length of service line | If your policy is to set meters at the customer property line, use a value of "0" and a grade of "10". | |
| Average operating pressure | Use static pressures; How are pressure measurements taken (hydrant flow tests, loggers, telemetry); How is that data recorded and archived; Sometimes you may not have enough data points to be representative – if so give low data grading; If multiple pressure zones, need average for each zone, then do a weighted average (by miles of main) among all zones; Are boundary valves between zones verified to be closed; | |
| COST DATA | | |
| Annual operating cost (water) | Are all costs tracked and audited; Include O&M and Debt Service for the water system, but not the sewer system; | |
| Customer retail unit cost | If multiple volumetric rates, need to do a weighted average calculation; If sewer bill is based on water meter reading, it is recommended to include appropriate sewer rate in this calculation; | |
| Variable production cost | To start, include direct costs: power for pumps at plant and in distribution system + chemicals for treatment + residuals management; If you have them, it is recommended to include indirect costs: liability, residuals management, wear/tear on pumps and treatment equipment and impending expansion of supply as applicable; | |

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Additional Notes: