



Freshwater support for alternate water supplies in UPC

From Michelle Stockness <MStockness@freshwater.org>

Date Wed 11/5/2025 10:18 AM

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1 attachment (207 KB)

2025-GLC-Nonpotable-Reuse-Resolution.pdf;

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Hi Lyndy and Committee members,

Freshwater Society attended the first hour of today's 2024 UPC ad hoc Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee meeting. We support Agenda Item 5, and the adoption of plumbing code modifications to allow for non-potable alternate water systems with cross connection control.

The use of alternate water is further supported by a recent Great Lakes Commission resolution that was adopted last week, that calls for expanding non-potable water reuse in the Great Lakes region. This resolution is attached for reference.

Thanks for your work and detail on this matter,

Michelle

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RESOLUTION
Draft September 24, 2025

Non-Potable Water Reuse Development in the Great Lakes Basin

Whereas, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide a multitude of ecological, social, and economic benefits as well as provide drinking water for approximately 40 million U.S. and Canadian residents; and

Whereas, water is a foundation for industrial production and economic growth in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River basin for high tech or water intensive industries (e.g. datacenters, artificial intelligence quantum computing hubs, and semiconductor manufacturing facilities); and

Whereas, water reuse reflects intentional good stewardship of water withdrawn from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

Whereas, expanding sustainable water supply through water reuse technologies increases opportunity to attract new businesses to the basin and/or enable industrial facility expansions creating new jobs and economic growth in the region; and

Whereas, non-potable water reuse is the recycling of appropriately treated water for industrial, landscaping, and construction; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact require new and existing water withdrawals to demonstrate efficient use of water resources; and

Whereas, the strategic plan for the Great Lakes Commission includes the Commission providing information on regional trends, practices, and policies related to water use and conservation; and

Whereas, many industrial processes, landscaping needs, and construction practices utilizing significant amounts of water do not require potable water; and

Whereas, non-potable water reuse could hold the potential for significant cost savings when compared to utilizing treated and supplied municipal potable water rates; and

Whereas, expanding water supply through reuse can increase economic growth by simultaneously securing ample volumes for high-tech operations and industrial developments and preserving available potable water resources; and

Whereas, public acceptance of water reuse is growing, and broader public understanding will enable further adoption of non-potable water reuse practices.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission affirms the importance of increasing non-potable water reuse, particularly in industrial processes, landscape maintenance, and construction practices when appropriate in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission should develop recommendations that can be included in local or regional efforts to promote the benefits of implementing non-potable water reuse strategies that promote water to be treated and recycled to consistent, use-specific levels throughout the basin; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission will work with the WaterReuse Association and others as appropriate to share information about existing non-potable water reuse projects being utilized in the basin, identifying the purpose of the reuse, the magnitude of the reuse, operational costs of the reuse, implemented best practices for water reuse, and any existing challenges of implementing a non-potable water reuse strategy; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission will identify best practices, policies, and legislative opportunities related to water reuse and develop recommendations to enable states and provinces to increase non-potable water reuse within their jurisdictions.