Minimization of losses in water supply systems: strategy definition in a Portuguese case study

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ABSTRACT

The water sector in Portugal incorporates two general types of utility services: those focused on bulk water supply and those responsible for the water distribution. To achieve the economic, operational and environmental sustainability, it is essential to act on the efficiency of both types of systems. One of the major challenges is to promote the necessary cooperation between those utility services, especially on water losses control. Specific mechanisms to promote the gradual reduction of losses in distribution systems are needed to improve operational levels of service. In the paper, a methodology and the practical application to a pilot case of AdAve is presented, including results obtained, emphasising constrains and difficulties encountered. This approach, innovative in Portugal, of collaboration between different stakeholders, is believed to allow sound improvements in performance and efficiency of water supply systems as a whole, and will contribute to a comprehensive view of the water losses current situation.

Keywords: Water losses; Leakage management; Real losses minimization; Performance

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