

**1. How much wastewater does the VWRC treat every day?**

The VWRC receives and treats approximately 13 million litres of influent (wastewater) every day. This is equivalent to nearly five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

**2. What is the treatment process at the VWRC?**

The comprehensive treatment process at the VWRC includes: influent pumping and screening; grit removal; primary clarification; biological nutrient removal (BNR); secondary clarification; sand filtration; and UV disinfection.

**3. How is treated reclaimed water used after it is pumped to MacKay Reservoir?**

Reclaimed water in MacKay Reservoir is chlorinated and used to irrigate local golf courses, ball diamonds, soccer pitches, agricultural land used for grazing and hay production, two seed orchards, a seedling nursery and other tree plantations. The spray irrigation program is permitted by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and allows the City to reuse valuable water resources and provide a unique service to land owners in the North Okanagan region.

**4. Is treated reclaimed water from the VWRC safe for irrigation and the environment?**

Yes. The VWRC's high quality reclaimed water meets public health criteria through the Ministry of Environment (Ministry) to be used for high use public and private areas. The Ministry has deemed it safe for Okanagan Lake and the surrounding ecosystem.

**5. Is treated reclaimed water from the VWRC safe to drink?**

Treated reclaimed water from the VWRC is of high quality, however, it is not intended to be directly consumed by people. Similar to other drinking water in the North Okanagan, it should be processed by a water treatment plant prior to consumption.

**6. Do other communities discharge treated reclaimed water to Okanagan Lake?**

Yes. Communities located along Okanagan Lake (including the City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, District of Summerland and City of Penticton) discharge the majority of their treated reclaimed water to Okanagan Lake or adjacent water courses every day.

**7. What factors led to MacKay Reservoir nearing its maximum storage capacity elevation in 2021?**

During the last four years (2017 – 2020), there has been a significant reduction in the use of reclaimed water from MacKay Reservoir. This has been due to factors outside the City's control, including: poor weather in spring and summer; cooler temperatures; increased cloud cover; smoke from wildfires; and atypical rainfall. With all of these contributing factors, the use of reclaimed water was reduced in order to prevent the oversaturation of the pasture and crop lands and recreational spaces that use the City of Vernon spray irrigation program.