



ROSE VALLEY WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT UPDATE OCTOBER 2023

The McDougall Creek Wildfire recovery efforts affecting the operation of the Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant continue to progress very well. The most immediate recovery efforts have now been addressed. The City is working closely with the Interior Health Authority (IHA) to begin safely delivering water from the plant starting next month. Additional testing and flushing will be required at times, which will need to continue when the plant opens.

Despite the impacts of the wildfire, providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water from the new plant is scheduled to occur in two phases.

This means that all water users served by the new plant are scheduled to receive clean, safe and reliable drinking water prior to the end of December.



PROVIDING WATER IN TWO PHASES (NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023)

With McDougall Creek Wildfire impacts affecting the overall operation of the new plant, water is scheduled to be provided to users in two phases:

Phase I – Rose Valley – Lakeview System

Water Provided Prior to the End of November 2023

Why? Because this water system was in a more ready state prior to and after the wildfire and less impacts occurred.

Phase II – West Kelowna Estates System and Sunnyside/Pritchard System

Water Provided Prior to the End of December 2023

Why? In addition to recovering from a 'Do Not Consume Order,' these systems also required larger diameter transmission mains, valving and pump alterations, and connections to existing reservoirs in order to connect to the new plant.

The 'Do Not Consume' water order during the wildfire was a stark indication of just how serious the impacts were, and we cannot thank our community enough for their understanding. From all of us at the City of West Kelowna, we are sorry for having to implement a two-phased approach because of the setbacks from the wildfire. Since mid-September, when it was safe to re-enter construction and reservoir areas and resume Testing and Commissioning activity, crews have made significant progress. Examples of mitigation efforts include recovery from contractors and plant staff being evacuated, repairing a damaged chlorinator and meeting the requirements to remove the 'Do Not Consume Order', increased and significant watermain flushing, damaged pressure reducing station and system connectivity to all existing water service areas.



TESTING AND COMMISSIONING PROGRESS

Testing and Commissioning the new plant is ongoing and it is anticipated that fully compliant drinking water can be provided to the entire distribution Rose Valley - Lakeview system beginning next month. IHA issues a Permit to Operate for the City to operate as a water purveyor. Once the new plant is fully operational and meets the technical requirements, IHA will approve the plant's use to serve water users. City staff work closely with IHA on decision-making related to the water utility, which includes how and when safe, clean and reliable drinking water will be delivered to water users. Significant efforts have been made to begin providing water in two phases beginning in November despite two historic setbacks (pandemic supply chain/labour issues and the 2023 wildfire).



MILESTONES COMPLETED



Site Preparation and Utility Work



Plant and Reservoir Work



Building Construction and Treatment Process



Significant Transmission Main Construction Completed



WHAT'S NEXT AND TIMING

At the October 24 Regular Council Meeting, staff will provide an update about wildfire recovery, Testing and Commissioning and the phased approach to providing water from the plant. This Project Update information sheet has been attached to the staff report, and will be sent to the City's e-subscribers, posted on social media and promoted on other City channels.

When Phase 1 water users are confirmed to be served by the new plant widely broadcast communications will occur, which includes news releases, newspaper ads, notice to e-subscribers, social media posts and more. This is anticipated to occur prior to the end of November.

A household mailer will also be sent to Phase 1 property owners to confirm that they are successfully served by the new Rose Valley Water Treatment Plant.

The same communication approach noted above will apply to Phase 2 water users. This is anticipated to occur prior to the end of December.

At any time, if a resident is unsure if their household is being served by the new plant, please call the City at 778-797-1234 or email capitalprojects@westkelownacity.ca.

You can also view the service area map at westkelownacity.ca/waterservicesmap.

Staff will also provide Council and the community with updates at every Regular Council Meeting until all water users are served by the new plant. To watch Regular Council Meetings live or to watch archived meetings, please visit westkelownacity.ca/webcasts.

