

## FACT SHEET

### Overview

**Reclaimed Water Hauling Operations (RWHOs) can be a more convenient and less costly means of distributing reclaimed water to approved reuses. This Fact Sheet provides information on RWHOs, reclaimed water, approved water reuses, advantages of RWHOs, permit requirements for RWHOs, and how to obtain permits.**

## Reclaimed Water Hauling Operations

### What is an RWHO?

A reclaimed water hauling operation (RWHO) is considered a type of reclaimed water distribution system that transports and distributes reclaimed water to one or more end users, including an end user that may also be the hauling operation. RWHOs are similar to conventional reclaimed water distribution systems (defined in [9VAC25-740-10](#)) in that they may include reclaimed water storage facilities, reclaimed water filling stations, and facilities or equipment considered necessary to maintain the quality of reclaimed water distributed by the hauling operation. Unlike conventional reclaimed water distribution systems, RWHOs include, at a minimum, tank trucks or other equipment used to haul reclaimed water. In any case, components of RWHOs must comply with applicable design criteria for reclaimed water distribution systems and storage facilities specified in [9VAC 25-740-110.B and C](#), respectively.

### What is reclaimed water and what are water reuses?

Reclaimed water is defined in the Water Reclamation and Reuse Regulation as “water resulting from the treatment of domestic, municipal or industrial wastewater that is suitable for a water reuse that would not otherwise occur. For reclaimed water produced from domestic or municipal wastewater, there are two sets of treatment requirements and standards referred to as Level 1 and Level 2 ([9VAC25-740-70.A](#)). Level 1 reclaimed water is considered suitable for reuses where there is potential for public contact, while Level 2 reclaimed water is considered suitable for reuses with little or no potential for public contact. Treatment requirements and standards for reclaimed water produced from industrial wastewater are developed on a case-by-case basis relative to the character of the industrial wastewater and the quality of water needed for the intended reuse of that water. There are several approved reuses of Level 1 and Level 2 reclaimed water listed in the Water Reclamation and Reuse Regulation ([9VAC25-740-90.A](#)). Unlisted reuses of reclaimed water produced from municipal or industrial wastewater must be approved on a case-by-case basis.

### What are advantages of RWHOs?

When compared to conventional reclaimed water distribution systems, RWHOs have some advantages under specific conditions. RWHOs can be a more convenient and less costly means of distributing reclaimed water to approved reuses for emergency situations (e.g., firefighting, cooling, etc.) that may occur as a result of a prolonged drought and/or other causes; and to approved reuses that typically occur intermittently or seasonally (e.g., dust suppression at construction sites, landscape irrigation, street sweeping and cleaning, etc.).

### What are permitting requirement for RWHOs?

RWHOs will require permit coverage from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). An RWHO may be independent of or under common ownership or management with system(s) that supply reclaimed water to the RWHO (e.g., reclamation system, satellite reclamation system, or another reclaimed water distribution system). This affects permit coverage and application submittals for the RWHO as follows:

1. If the RWHO is under common ownership or management with a system providing reclaimed water to the RWHO, the RWHO may be covered by the same permit issued to that system.
2. If the RWHO is independent of a system providing reclaimed water to the RWHO, the RWHO may be covered by:
  - A permit separate from the permit issued to the system, or
  - The same permit issued to the system if the RWHO will not distribute reclaimed water to end users other than the owner or management of the RWHO, and the RWHO has a service agreement or contract established with the system.

### How do you obtain permit coverage for RWHOs?

For assistance with questions about permitting requirements and necessary application forms for RWHOs, please contact the DEQ Regional Office covering the physical location and service area of the RWHO. DEQ Regional Office and contact information can be found on the agency’s website at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/about-deq/contact-us> or obtained by calling the DEQ Central Office in Richmond, Virginia at (804) 698-4000.