

### Treated Water Supply

The Gallagher Lake water system consists of distribution water mains that supply water to properties along Frontage Road and to Deer Park Estates. The system receives treated groundwater from the Osoyoos Indian Band (Senkulmen Utilities) through a bulk water purchasing agreement.

### Water Quality Monitoring

In 2020, a total of **26** water samples were drawn from the Gallagher Lake distribution system. Samples from the distribution system were analyzed by an accredited laboratory for Total Coliforms and *Escherichia coli*. All samples drawn in 2020 had no detections for Total Coliforms or *E.coli*.



In addition to the bacteriological samples, field tests were conducted for free chlorine, temperature, pH, conductivity and turbidity. Free chlorine residuals are required to be maintained between 0.2 mg/L and 2.0 mg/L of free chlorine.

Sampling Location	Unit	Avg	Min	Max	No. of Results
Frontage Rd	mg/L	0.51	0.39	0.60	26

2020– Distribution Free Chlorine Residuals

### Gallagher Lake Water Supply

Treated water is supplied to the RDOS’s Gallagher Lake water system through a bulk water purchase agreement with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB). The OIB’s Senkulmen Utilities treats the water sourced from a deep groundwater well with the addition of chlorine. The OIB’s Senkulmen Utilities operates the water treatment system which also supplies domestic and irrigation water to many properties in the surrounding area including the Senkulmen Business Park and the Correctional Centre.



### Standards for Potable Water

The *British Columbia Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA)* and supporting Regulation along with the *Federal Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ)* define parameters for potable water in BC. These include Aesthetic Objectives (AO) and Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) for numerous water quality parameters.



### Certified Water Operators

The *British Columbia Environmental Operators Certification Program (BC EOCP)* is responsible for the classification of water systems in BC. The EOCP is also responsible for certification of all water system Operators. All RDOS Operators are certified through the *BC EOCP*. Operators may hold certification in the disciplines of Water Distribution and/or Water Treatment with 4 levels of certification achievable within each discipline. Annually, RDOS Operators attend courses and seminars and complete online training required to maintain and augment their levels of certification.

## Water Quality Complaints

If you have a water quality complaint, concern, observe changes in your water or would like to request further information regarding any of the RDOS water systems please contact the following:

Public Works Department  
RDOS Environmental Technologist  
Toll Free: 1-877-610-3737  
Phone: 250-490-4106  
Email: info@rdos.bc.ca

## Water Connections

During regular business hours water related emergencies, questions regarding applications for water service and water service turn on/off requests can be directed to the following:

Public Works Department  
Administrative Assistant  
Toll Free: 1-877-610-3737  
Phone: 250-490-4135  
Email: info@rdos.bc.ca

## After-Hours Water Emergencies

For all after-hours water related emergencies please call:  
Regional Dispatch  
250-490-4141

## The Interior Health Authority's Role

The Interior Health Authority's team of drinking water officers are responsible for providing the oversight to ensure compliance and drinking water safety. The IHA is responsible for issuing *Permits to Operate* to drinking water systems. The Interior Health Authority has four types of water notifications to inform users of negative impacts to water quality.



### **WATER QUALITY ADVISORY (WQA)**

- There is some level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, but a boil water notice is not needed.
- The risk is elevated for people with weakened immune systems, the elderly and infants and young children.

### **BOIL WATER NOTICE (BWN)**

- There are organisms in the water that can make you sick.
- To safely consume (swallow) the water, you must bring it to a rolling boil for at least 60 seconds, or use a safe, alternate source of water.

### **DO NOT CONSUME (DNC)**

- There are harmful chemicals or other bad things in the water that can make you sick.
- You cannot make the water safe by boiling it.
- The water can make you sick if you consume (swallow) it.

### **DO NOT USE (DNU)**

- There are known microbial, chemical, or radiological contaminants in the water and that any contact with the water, with the skin, lungs, or eyes can be dangerous.
- Do not turn on your tap for any reason or use your water for anything.
- You CANNOT make the water safe by boiling it.

## Additional Resources

[RDOS Water System Home Page](#)  
[Water Systems | RDOS](#)

[Interior Health Authority Drinking Water Homepage](#)  
[Home \(interiorhealth.ca\)](#)

[Federal Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality](#)  
[Water Quality - Reports and Publications - Canada.ca](#)

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