Alberta Central East Regional Water System

TOWN OF VERMILION ALBERTA

Updated June 2013

What is A.C.E.?

The Alberta Central East Regional Water System is the corporation comprised of the following thirteen municipalities (shareholders) created to supply potable water.

- County of Two Hills
- County of Minburn
- Town of Two Hills
- Village of Willingdon
- Village of Myrnam
- County of Vermilion River
- Village of Dewberry
- Village of Marwayne
- Village of Kitscoty
- Village of Paradise Valley
- Village of Innisfree
- Village of Mannville
- Town of Vermilion

How will the system work?

The regional system includes over 350 kilometers of pipeline and multiple booster stations that will feed potable water from a transfer station in Vegreville to the thirteen municipalities.

The water will be supplied from the North Saskatchewan River by EPCOR Utilities Inc. through the Capital Region Vegreville Corridor Water Services Commission.

What is the total cost to build the regional system?

The total capital costs of the regional water system is estimated to be in the range of $128 million to $163 million with the provincial government contributing a majority of the costs (approximately 90%). The remaining costs will be shared between the thirteen municipalities through a pro-rated share (based on population) for each phase of development.

Once a municipality has connected to the system, they will start contributing to the annual operation and maintenance costs (user fee). This user fee will be based on each municipality's actual water consumption.

Phase 1 (to Lavoy and Two Hills) & 2 (to Vermilion) are the most expensive phases, accounting for 54 % of the costs of the 5 phases. Currently the Town of Vermilion (as well as the other thirteen municipalities) have paid for both Phase 1 & 2. When Phase 3, 4 & 5 are constructed, Vermilion will have to pay for its portion of those costs as well.

It is estimated to take between 10 to 15 years to complete all 5 phases. Vermilion's total cost (post provincial grant) for the ACE water system is estimated at $5.4 million with a life expectancy of 75 years. Alternatively, the Town would have been required to upgrade the existing Water Treatment Plant, with a life expectancy 12-15 years and no option for grants to reduce Vermilion's costs.

What stage is the project at now?

Construction of the pipeline from Vegreville to Vermilion is complete and the final stages of upgrading the Town's facilities are under way. The system is expected to be operational by the end of July, 2013.

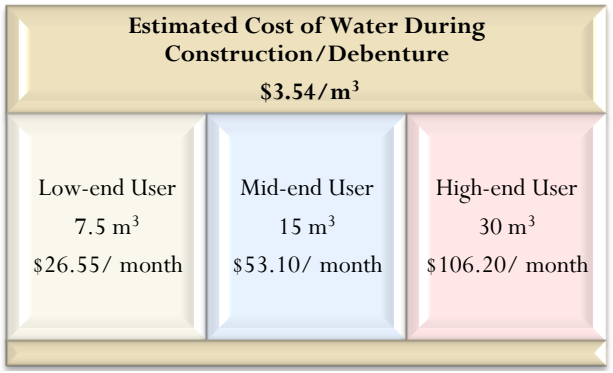
During the initial transition to the new ACE water, you may notice an odor and a reddish color to the water. This is a reaction between the new chloramines in the water and the built-up deposits in the copper lines of your home.
The water is safe to drink during this time. Colouration and odour should be minimal in areas with newer PVC or concrete water mains. If you notice a slight reddish colour or odour turn on your cold water taps for approximately 5-10 minutes and the water should run clear. It will take up to 8 weeks for the new water to completely run through Vermilions system.

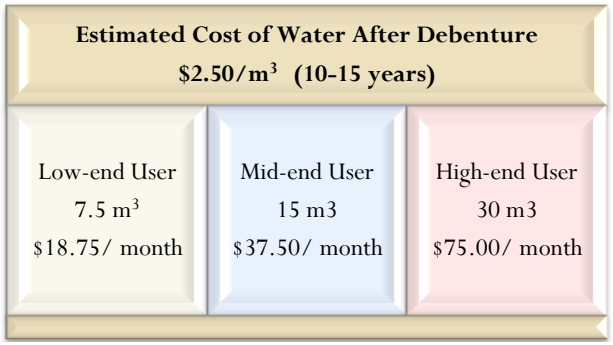
It is important that you check your water prior to washing your clothes. If you notice a reddish color please refrain from washing your clothes and turn on your cold water taps for approximately 5-10 minutes and if the water remains reddish please call the Transportation and Utilities Department at 780-581-2415. This is probably an area of cast iron water mains and the new water is reacting with built-up deposits in the main line. Most cast iron water mains have been replaced in town within the last 15 years but there are a few locations that still have cast iron water mains.

Extensive flushing throughout Town will occur during this 8 week period and your call will help the Town effectively monitor the flushing. Your patience will be greatly appreciated during this time as our guys are working hard to clear the water in your neighbourhood.

How much will it cost me?

The proposed household cost of water is estimated to be $\$3.54/m^3$ during the construction/debenture process of the system. Once all 5 Phases of the regional water system is complete and the debenture is paid (approximately 2023) the household cost of water is estimated to be $\$2.50/m^3$.





What is this chloramination everyone is talking about?

Chloramination is the process of disinfecting water using chloramines, compounds of chlorine and ammonia. Chloramination is a better choice than using chlorine alone because it produces lower levels of disinfectant by-products like trihalomethanes which form when chlorine combines with natural organic substances found in water.

Is chloraminated water safe?

Chloraminated water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, gardening and all other general household uses and it is safe for lawns, flowers and vegetable gardens.

Because chloramine does not accumulate in the body it is safe for:

- women who are pregnant, babies and children,
- mixing baby formulas and,
- cleansing cuts, scrapes and wounds.

However, just like chlorine, precautions should be taken to neutralize or remove chloramines by these special groups:

- kidney dialysis patients,
- owners of aquariums, reptiles, amphibians or backyard fish ponds,
- restaurants and supermarkets with live seafood tanks,
- photo labs and businesses or laboratories requiring high-purity water.

For more information on chloramines, please visit our website vermilion.ca