



POTABLE REUSE

Abel Agosto

Source and Drinking Water Program
Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Focus on Change | 2026



THE GENESIS OF POTABLE REUSE IN FLORIDA

CHAPTER 2020-150, LAWS OF FLORIDA

- In July of 2020, the Florida Legislature mandated the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to initiate rulemaking to provide for potable reuse based on the recommendations of the Florida Potable Reuse Commission.
- Reclaimed water is deemed a water source for public water supply systems.
- Definitions.
 - Reclaimed water means water that has received at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection and is reused after flowing out of a domestic wastewater treatment facility (WTF).
 - Reuse means the deliberate application of reclaimed water, in compliance with DEP and water management districts' (WMDs') rules, for a beneficial purpose.



FLORIDA POTABLE REUSE COMMISSION

FRAMEWORK FOR POTABLE REUSE IN FLORIDA

- Partnership between.
 - WaterReuse Florida, Florida Section of the American Water Works Association Water Utility Council.
 - Florida Water Environmental Association Utility Council.
 - Water Research Foundation.





Data from the U.S. EPA REUSExplorer 2025



APPROVAL & ADOPTION OF POTABLE REUSE

- Florida's Environmental Regulation Commission approved potable reuse rules developed by DEP during a hearing on Dec. 13, 2024.
- New Chapter 62-565, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Potable Reuse was adopted on Feb. 26, 2025.
 - Establishes a regulatory framework for direct and indirect potable reuse and the permitting of an Advanced Treatment Water Facility (ATWF).
 - Identifies the requirements for potable reuse systems.
 - Contains industrial pretreatment requirements for potable reuse systems.
 - Establishes monitoring and reporting requirements for ATWFs.
 - Requires pilot testing for all ATWF projects.

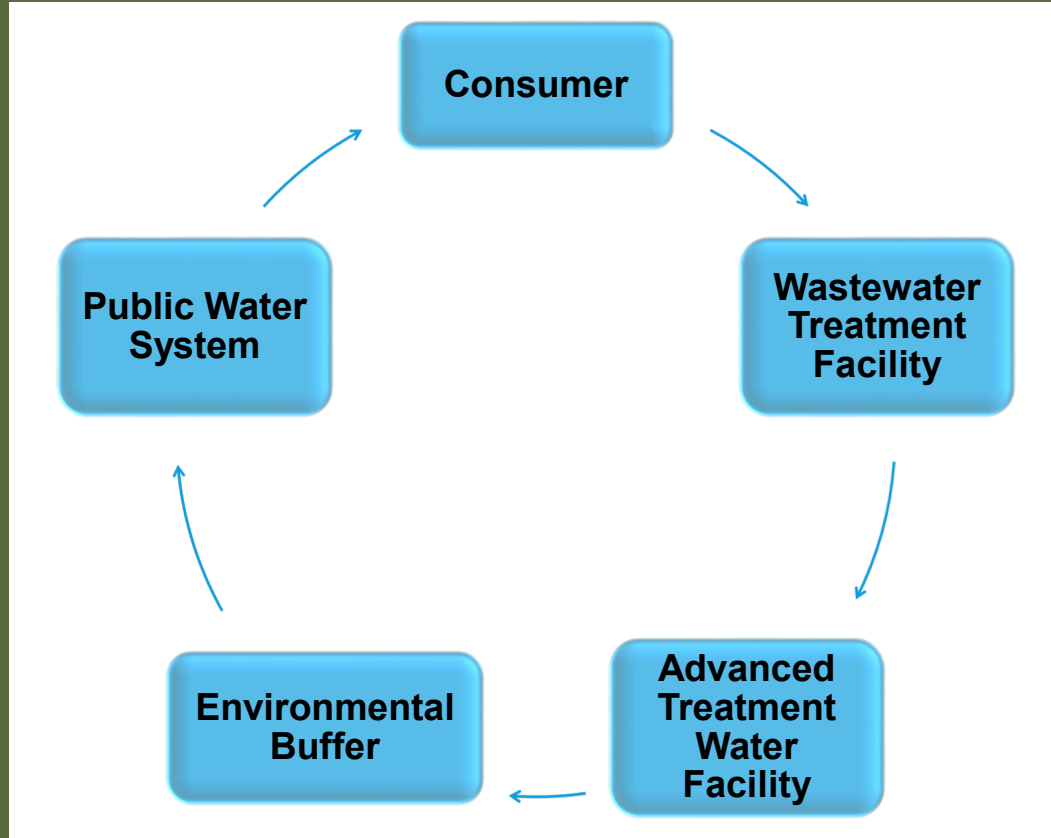


ADDITIONAL RULE CHANGES

- Chapter 62-550, F.A.C., Drinking Water Standards, Monitoring and Reporting.
 - Changes to establish treatment requirements, public noticing requirements and monthly operating reports for a public water system (PWS) receiving advanced treated water from an ATWF.
- Chapter 62-555, F.A.C., Permitting, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Public Water Systems.
 - Changes to recognize advance treated water as a source water for a PWS.
- Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application.
 - Changes to remove existing indirect potable reuse provisions and to ensure consistency with changes to other chapters and the creation of Chapter 62-565, F.A.C.



ADVANCED TREATMENT WATER FACILITIES



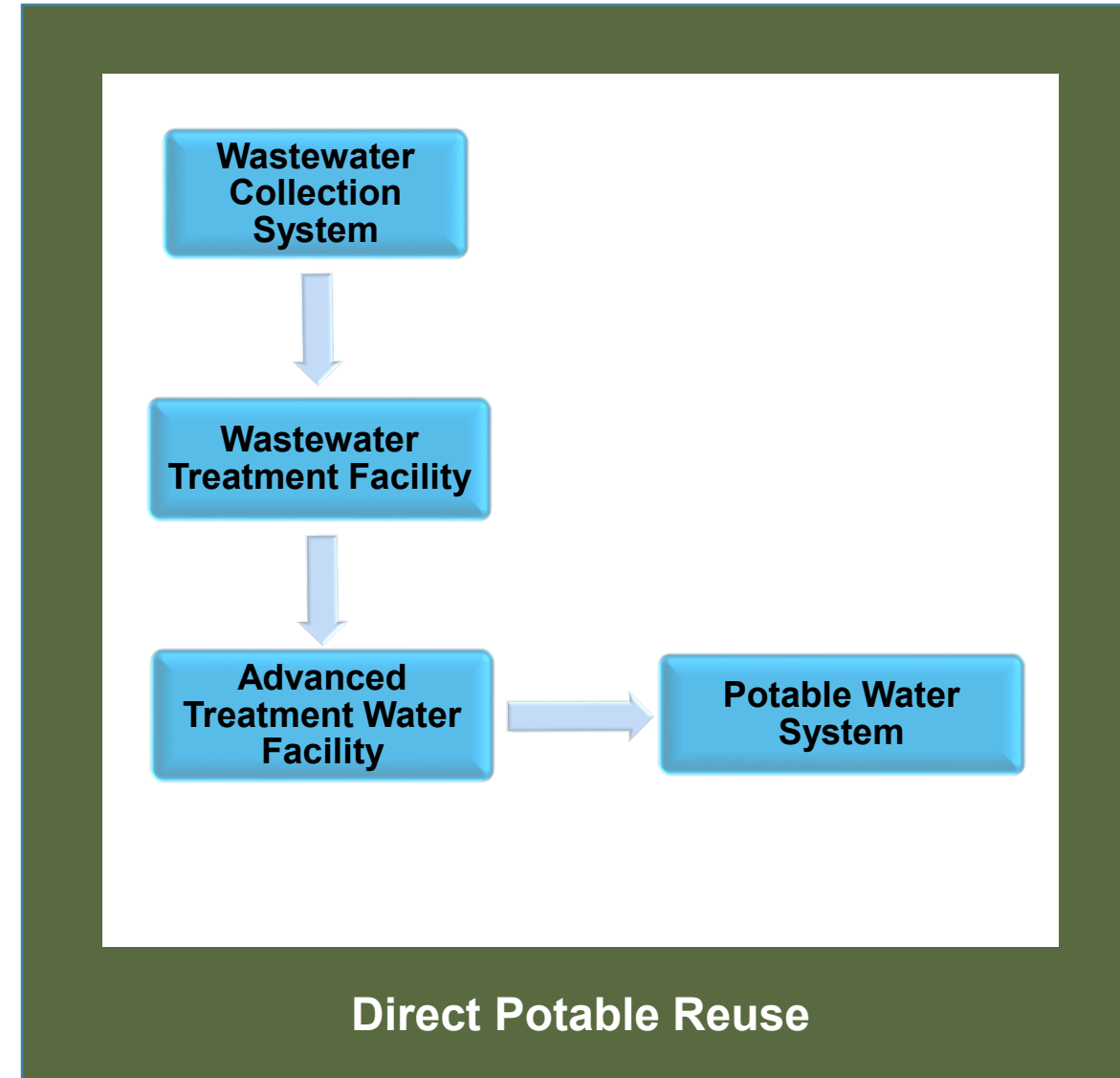
Indirect Potable Reuse

- Potable reuse is the planned use of reclaimed water to augment potable water supplies or surface water resources which are used, or will be used, for public water supply.
- Potable reuse systems consists of permitted ATWF, which is as an intermediary between a WTF and a PWS.
- ATWF permitting requirements center around addressing emerging constituents that aren't easily removed by conventional treatment processes, and to help the system overall to meet more stringent pathogen reduction requirements.
- An ATWF produces "advanced treated water" which may be introduced to a PWS as a source water for the production of potable drinking water.



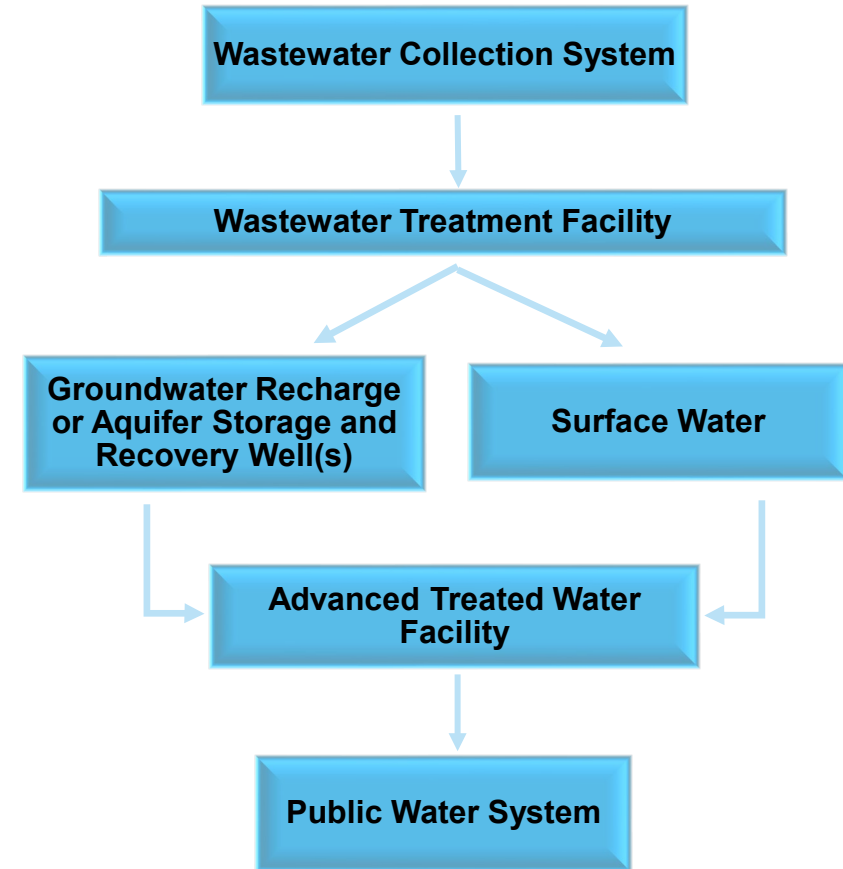
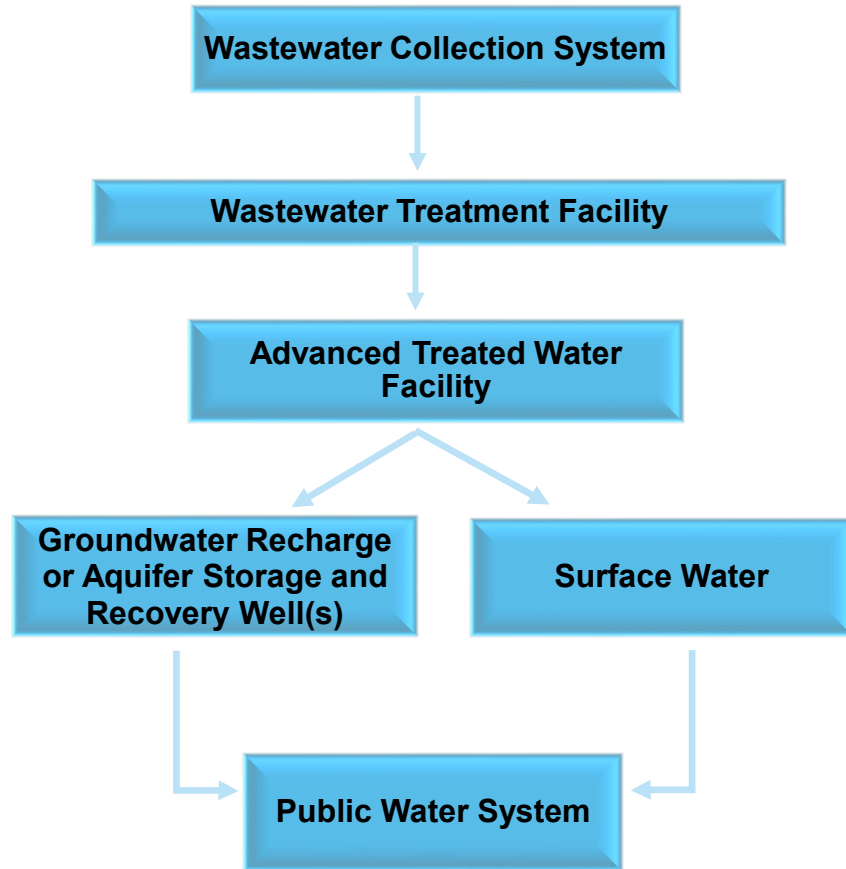
TYPES OF POTABLE REUSE - DIRECT

- **Direct Potable Reuse:** The direct introduction of advanced treated water into a drinking water treatment facility or directly into a potable water supply distribution system.
- **Indirect Potable Reuse:** The planned delivery or discharge of reclaimed water to ground or surface waters for the development of, or to supplement, the potable water supply.





TYPES OF POTABLE REUSE - INDIRECT





SURFACE WATER DISCHARGES

- Surface water discharges can be potable reuse if:
 - There is a need to supplement or replace the public water supply;
 - The discharge will meet part or all the identified need to supplement or replace the water supply, and;
 - There is a hydrologic connection between the point of discharge and the potable water supply intake.



GROUNDWATER DISCHARGES

- An aquifer storage and recovery project may be considered potable reuse if:
 - The discharge is to F-I, G-I, G-II or G-III groundwaters, or by rapid-rate land application systems, and;
 - The planned supply wells are located within the applicable setback distances or hydrologically connected to the point of discharge.
- Facilities would need to obtain an ATWF permit to claim “indirect potable reuse” as a beneficial use in their plans for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharges under section 403.064(16), Florida Statutes.



ATWF PERMITTING PROCESS

Potable Reuse



PILOT TESTING PROGRAM

- Prior to the application to construct the ATWF, the potential applicant must conduct a pilot test for a minimum of one year to demonstrate:
 - The quality of the source water,
 - Effectiveness of treatment and disinfection processes, and;
 - Achievement of primary and secondary drinking water standards.



FULL SCALE DEMONSTRATION

- After construction but prior to operation, the applicant must conduct a full-scale demonstration for a minimum of 30 consecutive days to demonstrate the ATWF is achieving a steady state.



CLEARANCE TO OPERATE

- After completion of the demonstration, DEP will review the sampling results from sampling during the demonstration to ensure the ATWF as constructed meets all permit limitations.



DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- ATWFs are required to be designed in accordance with sound engineering practice.
 - Hazard identification.
 - Chemical risk assessment.
 - Treatment barriers.
 - Critical control points.
 - Reliability and redundancy.
 - Joint operations plan.



PILOT TESTING PROGRAM

- Pilot testing is required prior to submitting an application for an ATWF.
- Prior to commencing pilot testing, a party must obtain approval of the pilot testing plan. The plan must be signed and sealed by a professional engineer and include design of the system, testing schedule, source water evaluation, treatment information.
- Pilot testing for a minimum of 12 months is required for all ATWF projects.
- Once pilot testing is completed, party will submit an engineering report detailing the results of the test.



FULL SCALE DEMONSTRATION

- After construction is completed, prior to placing the facility into operation, an AWWTF must conduct a full-scale demonstration for at least 30 days.
- The demonstration must be conducted with the facility achieving steady state.
- During the demonstration, the applicant is required to sample for all permit limitations at least once and report the results.
- *If the sampling results demonstrate compliance with the permit conditions, DEP shall issue a letter of clearance for operation.*



OPERATION OF THE ATWF

Potable Reuse



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Chapter 62-602, F.A.C., provides for licensing of water, wastewater or distribution system operators.
- ATWFs are required to employ operators licensed in accordance with Chapter 62-602, F.A.C., to be on-site and responsible for the operation, supervision and maintenance of an ATWF *at all times*.



TERTIARY TREATED RECLAIMED WATER

- Lead operator must:
 - Have a Class A drinking water license.
- Staff operators must:
 - Have at least Class B drinking water license.



OPERATION OF THE ATWF

RECEIVING SECONDARY TREATED RECLAIMED WATER

- Lead operator must be:
 - A single operator with Class A in both drinking water and wastewater.
- OR
- Two operators individually licensed with Class A drinking water / wastewater.
- Staff operators must be:
 - A single operator with Class B in both drinking water and wastewater.
- OR
- A combination of operators individually licensed with Class B drinking water and Class A wastewater.



QUESTIONS?

Potable Reuse



THANK YOU

Abel Agosto

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Contact Information:

850-245-8646

Abel.Agosto@FloridaDEP.gov