

Mini Case Study: City of Wichita Falls

1. Please describe your water service area by demographics (i.e. population served, age of properties, average seasonal water use, lot sizes).

We supply to the City of Wichita Falls (approximately 104,000 pop.) as well as 15 wholesale water providers (approximately 50,000 pop. total). Our seasonal demands typically range from 10 MGD in the winter (Nov - February) and transition to the mid teens in the fall and spring. Summer demands typically average close to 20 MGD, with a peak over the last 9 years of 26 MGD.

2. With all the drought tools used, which one do you consider the most effective? Why?

In 2014-2015, reuse (DPR) was critical to our operations. Our source water reservoirs neared 20% combined capacity, and the reuse allowed us to cut HALF of our source water demands by replacing it with reuse water. The DPR was shut off in July 2015, and in late 2018 we started our IPR. That process allows us to pump our treated wastewater effluent to one of our surface water supply reservoirs, before bringing that water back to the drinking water treatment plant. We average about 8 MGD of treated wastewater effluent pumped to the surface water supply reservoir. This accounts for roughly half of our daily average use. The IPR has helped to extend our surface water supply during the drought of the last couple of years.

3. What is the response you get from your customers or community, when using this tool?
Our public response has been very positive, both for the DPR and IPR. During the DPR the public knew how dire the reservoir supply was, and also complimented how great the water tasted during the DPR as well. We consistently get public questions now about whether we are still pumping water to the lake for the IPR.

4. How long has it been in effect?

The DPR was used July 2014 - July 2015. The IPR has been online since late 2018.

5. Anything else you'd like to add – for instance something different you are thinking of implementing this upcoming summer, what you have determined you will not utilize again, etc.

We do not have any planned changes or upgrades to our reuse systems at this time.