

ABSTRACT
For
UF WATER INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

“Sustainable Water Resources: Florida Challenges, Global Solutions”
entitled
Reusing Wastewater by the Florida Department of Corrections

The Florida Department of Corrections has been reusing some of the wastewater generated at six (6) different treatment plants to help resolve various operational problems. The treatment plants involved were modified to improve them from standard secondary treatment to advanced tertiary with extra nutrient removal and filtration. Continuous monitoring and high-level disinfection is also required. Obtaining the permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was very difficult in the beginning, but most District Offices soon saw the many benefits and are willing to permit this operation. Typically, the highly treated effluent is used in the prison laundry and for flushing toilets. This reduces the use of potable water by a minimum of 40% and sometimes over 50%. The biggest costs incurred are retrofitting the housing units to assure that the reuse water does not mix with the potable water system. The second major expense is the additional treatment steps at the wastewater treatment plants. Most plants involved were in the 200,000 to 300,000 gallons per day size.

Key Words: Wastewater Reuse; Water Conservation; Funding Issues.

Challenges: Public Health; Water Resource Sustainability.

Issues: Water Availability, Public Perceptions.

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