



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
NORTH
OKANAGAN

APPLICATION FOR RDNO FARM CLASSIFICATION (Appeal for Agricultural Water Rates)

NOTE: If your property has BC ASSESSMENT FARM CLASSIFICATION, you are automatically eligible for the agricultural water rate and do not need to submit an appeal, with the exception of Commercial Cannabis Growing Operations which are not eligible to receive Agricultural Water Rates.

Name of Property Owner(s):	Phone #1:
	Phone #2:

Email of Property Owner(s):

Address of Property Applied for:

Mailing Address (if different from above):

Total Property Size (Acres):	Existing Water Allocation (Hectares):
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Type of Irrigation System (eg. drip, hand set, overhead sprinkler, etc.):	Farming Income (Previous Year): PLEASE NOTE: Applications require proof of income. New farms without farms income may apply and submit a New Farm supplemental application
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Types of Crop and/or Livestock:

Land Leased: Yes No If Yes, Name of Renter:
(the owner or renter may provide proof of income)

Do you have an Agricultural Water Meter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PLEASE NOTE: water meters must be installed before turn on.
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Do you have a Backflow Preventer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PLEASE NOTE: testable backflow preventers must be installed before turn on and tested annually.
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PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Fees are per the current Greater Vernon Water Rates Imposition Bylaw

- THE APPLICANT ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING TERMS:**
- All agricultural water used must be metered separately prior to irrigation turn on;
 - All domestic water used must be metered prior to approval of application;
 - Only one appeal per property may be filed per calendar year, successful appeals are valid for one calendar year;
 - \$80 NON-REFUNDABLE application fee made payable to the 'Regional District of North Okanagan';**
 - Applications received after February 15th will be subject to a **\$230 NON-REFUNDABLE late fee;**
 - Must meet Cross Connection Control Standards;
 - The applicant will notify Greater Vernon Water (GVW) if farming activity ceases;
 - GVW can conduct audits, including site inspections, to confirm eligibility;
 - Eligibility for agricultural water may be withdrawn at the discretion of GVW if land use ceases to meet the criteria for agricultural use or if access for site inspections is denied; and
 - Current water restrictions must be adhered to at all times.

In the event of a successful application, the applicant will install (a) separate water meter(s) at their sole expense to measure all water used on the property. The meter(s) must be installed and inspected before the agricultural water rate comes into effect.

Signature(s) of Property Owner(s):	Date:
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OFFICE USE ONLY

PID:	CCC Compliant: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Zoning:	<input type="checkbox"/> On non-potable water source

Approved for 20____ Denied

_____ Authorized Official (Print Name)	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$80 Non-Refundable Application Fee	Receipt #:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$230 Non-Refundable Late Fee (In Addition to the \$80 Application Fee After February 15)	

**BOARD APPROVED CRITERIA
TO RECEIVE GREATER VERNON WATER AGRICULTURAL WATER RATES**

The following criteria must be met for landowners to receive irrigation water at the agricultural rate:

1. Properties with BC Assessment Farm Classification will automatically receive Agricultural Water Rates, with the exception of Commercial Cannabis Growing Operations which are not eligible to receive Agricultural Water Rates.
2. An annual application for Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Farm Classification must be applied for no later than February 15. Applications submitted after this date will be subject to a non-refundable late fee in addition to the appeal application fee.
3. Properties without BC Assessment Farm Classification with an existing irrigation allocation greater than 0.41 ha (1 acre) can apply annually to receive irrigation water at the agricultural water rate.
4. Properties with an existing irrigation allocation less than or equal to 0.41 ha (1 acre) will not be eligible for an appeal, and will be invoiced at the domestic rate.
5. Properties without BC Assessment Farm Classification or without a RDNO Farm Classification will be considered domestic. Domestic water use is required to be metered and is charged at the domestic water rate.
6. A successful application must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Agricultural use of the property is permitted pursuant to the appropriate zoning regulations;
 - b. The property is used for agricultural purposes, comprising at least one of the following uses:

- Apiculture;	- Herb production;	- Medicinal plant culture;
- Aquaculture;	- Horse rearing;	- Poultry and egg production;
- Christmas tree culture;	- Horse boarding;	- Seed production;
- Dairying;	- Horticulture;	- Turf production;
- Floriculture;	- Populous species and salix species intensively cultivated in plantations;	- Wool, hide, feather or fur production; and
- Forage production;	- Insects raised for biological pest control;	- The raising of crops or animals for human consumption.
- Forest seedling and seed production;	- Livestock raising;	
- Fruit and vegetable production;		

The following activities are **NOT** considered agricultural for the purposes of water billing:

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| - Production of manufactured derivatives from agricultural raw materials; | - Agricultural support services; |
| - Production for the occupants' own domestic consumption; | - Breeding and rearing of pets, except horses; and |
| - Irrigation of lawns, gardens and landscaping; | - Commercial Cannabis Growing Operations. |
7. Only actual farmable area or a legitimately necessary volume (based on actual water requirements for Bona Fide Agricultural use) will be approved for Agricultural Water Rates which may not be equivalent to the total Allocation of the property.
 8. Allocation may be reduced or not granted if an audit determines water is being used for a Non Bona Fide Agricultural use.
 9. The property owner must purchase a second water meter from Greater Vernon Water (GVW) and install it inside the property line to capture all water use. The cost to purchase and install the meter, pit and appurtenances will be borne by the property owner. The meter must be inspected by GVW before eligibility for the agricultural water rate is instated.
 10. Landowners with water allocations less than or equal to 0.82 hectares (2 acres) will be required to meet the income threshold of \$1,000 per year. Landowners with water allocations greater than 0.82 hectares will be required to meet the income threshold of \$2,500 per year. Proof of income is required with **ALL** appeal applications made.
 11. New farms may apply for an interim approval process as follows:
 - a. Complete a "New Farm – SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR GVW FARM CLASSIFICATION".
 - b. Provide receipts for purchases relating to new farm development.
 - c. Provide receipts for gross farm income for previous year (if available) and estimated annual income projections that can be reasonably expected for the proposed farming operation (will be referenced in future applications).
 - d. New farms will be required to meet and sustain the minimum income threshold (see item 10 above) following two years of operation. The Manager - Greater Vernon Water may approve an extended interim approval period providing the new farm activity meets the BC Assessment criteria for the classification of land under development as a farm. Receipts will be required annually to demonstrate the income threshold has been met prior to approval of RDNO Farm Classification for the third year of new farm operation.
 12. All properties must be assessed for backflow prevention and meet the Cross Connection Control Bylaw including installation of required backflow prevention devices and / or assemblies.
 13. Notification regarding approved or rejected appeals will be mailed to the address provided. Rejected appeals will be informed of the reasons.

Greater Vernon Water (GVW) is a function of the Regional District of the North Okanagan, responsible for water supply, treatment and distribution. Please feel free to contact GVW for additional information at: