



Community Update

Lowering Nitrates in Re-Used Water

A critical part of the Port's \$500 million water re-use system upgrade has been completed. Three anaerobic digesters will treat industrial wastewater from food processors, transforming organic forms of nitrogen and stabilizing wastewater that will be used to irrigate nearby farmland.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural biological process that allows microorganisms to 'digest' biodegradable matter in wastewater.

The well-established, low-energy process is the first component of a treatment system that will produce water with nitrate levels below DEQ regulatory thresholds for irrigation in the Lower Umatilla Basin.

After the anaerobic digesters, the Port will install a secondary water treatment facility to further reduce nitrogen and acquire additional farmland to spread the use of treated, lower-nitrate water. The Port will install storage ponds capable of retaining 1.5 billion gallons of treated water when land application is disallowed in winter months.