

## How can I obtain more information?

Documents referenced in this brochure, as well as other guidance materials intended to help small communities with environmental compliance, are available on ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Web page:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/function/compliance/smallcomm.html>.

This page will continue to be updated as materials and information become available.

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# DRINKING WATER IN SMALL COMMUNITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS



**ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Program is intended to address the needs of community water systems and help small communities with populations less than 10,000 persons and special districts comply with environmental laws governing drinking water systems.**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has been delegated authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate public water systems and enforce safe drinking water standards. As a result, compliance with the state safe drinking water laws is also compliance with the federal safe drinking water laws.

A community water system (CWS or CO) is defined as a public water system that serves 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents or that serves 25 or more year-round residents. Small community and special district water systems are normally regulated as community water systems.

## How does ADEQ help small communities comply with drinking water system requirements?

ADEQ offers regularly scheduled drinking water and wastewater workshops to help owners and operators. Notification of these events is available on ADEQ's web site. The agency's rural representatives, called "community liaisons," are able to assist Arizona's rural communities.

## ADEQ Monitoring Assistance Program (MAP)

Through MAP, ADEQ collects samples and reports the results for inorganic chemicals (IOC), synthetic organic chemicals (SOC), volatile organic chemicals (VOC), radiochemicals, nitrite, and asbestos for small public water systems that serve less than 10,000 customers. MAP does *not* sample for routine monthly, repeat and follow-up total coliform, nitrate\*, lead, copper, disinfectants and disinfection by-products. These remain the responsibility of the public water system provider. A complete list of contaminants sampled by MAP is available.

## What are the general obligations of public water systems?

Monitoring (sampling) and reporting rules can be found in the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C) Title 18, Chapter 4. Certified operator and new and modified drinking water construction rules can be found in A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 5. These and other state rules are available on the Arizona Secretary of State Web site: [www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov).

While not an all-inclusive list, some of the requirements include:

- monitoring and reporting analytical results to ADEQ on agency approved laboratory forms;
- report incidents and/or violations to ADEQ;
- provide public notice of violations to water customers;
- provide ADEQ with a copy and proof that public notice was issued to customers;
- use of certified operators at the appropriate grade level for drinking water collection, treatment and distribution (A.A.C. R18-5-104);
- backflow prevention;
- annual backflow prevention assembly testing;
- develop and implement a written emergency operations plan (EOP);
- use of additives, materials and equipment certified for potable water;
- obtain ADEQ approvals to construct before beginning any new construction and/or modifications to an existing public water system;

\* MAP is in the process of phasing in responsibility of nitrate sampling. Systems should stay updated on this transition.

- obtain ADEQ approvals of construction prior to operation of any completed new construction and/or modifications to an existing public water system;
- use of Best Available Technology (BAT) to resolve ongoing maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations;
- provide customers with an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

## What are some of the common drinking water violations?

### Total coliform, failure to:

- conduct monitoring (sampling) and report analytical results to ADEQ;
- develop a written microbiological site sampling plan (MSSP) and collect monthly total coliform samples that are representative of the water throughout the distribution system based on the MSSP;
- notify ADEQ of total coliform positive results;
- collect repeat samples when a routine sample tests total coliform positive;
- comply with public notice requirements;
- conduct corrective actions;
- collect follow-up samples in the month following a total coliform positive result in addition to required monthly total coliform sampling.

### Disinfectants and disinfection by-products for surface water systems and groundwater systems which use chemical disinfectants (example: chlorine), failure to:

- measure and report to ADEQ monthly residual disinfectant levels for water treated with a chemical disinfectant;
- collect samples and report to ADEQ disinfection by-products. Examples of disinfection by-products include total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and five haloacetic acids (HAA5), which can form in water through disinfectants used to control microbial pathogens.

### Lead and copper, failure to:

- conduct and report to ADEQ initial and follow-up tap water sampling for lead and copper;
- conduct and report to ADEQ follow-up sampling, which is dependent upon past monitoring frequencies and analytical results.

### Construction approvals, failure to:

- obtain approval for construction before beginning construction of a new public water system and/or modifications to an existing public water system, including new sources, water line extensions, blending plans, water treatment systems and other additions, extensions and modifications;
- obtain approval after construction is completed and prior to operation.

### Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs), failure to:

- provide or make available an annual CCR to each customer that contains information on the water source and water quality based on the results of the previous year's required water quality sampling, including all samples collected and analyzed by MAP;
- distribute or make available the CCR to each customer by July 1, for the previous calendar year;
- provide ADEQ with a copy of the annual CCR and certification of delivery to each customer.