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ADEQ Announces that Aquifer Protection Permit Workshops will begin next Thursday at Agency's Central Phoenix Offices

PHOENIX (March 19, 2010) – Officials from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced today that a series of workshops will be conducted starting next week to review the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) program and listen to ideas from the public about improving the permitting process.

The first workshop will be held Thursday, March 25 to give a general overview of APPs and the permitting process and the second workshop, scheduled for April 15, will repeat the same material. Each of the upcoming workshops will be conducted at ADEQ's central Phoenix location, located at 1110 W. Washington Street. The March 25 and April 15 meetings will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in Room 3175 A and B and prior registration is required. For more information, visit ADEQ's web site at www.azdeq.gov.

Future workshops for APP applicants, their consultants and the general public will be scheduled every three weeks after the April 15 meeting and will address the following subject matter:

- General permit requirements
- Individual permit requirements
- Technical components of APPs including best available demonstrated control technology, hydrogeologic study, monitoring well design and alert levels/aquifer quality limits
- Monitoring and reporting
- Closure and post-posture strategies
- Financial assurance
- How to read and understand permits
- Clean closures and permit releases

"Our listening and learning sessions will help the public understand, and the agency improve, the permitting process to protect ground water, Arizona's most precious, yet hidden natural resource. It's another example of an ADEQ collaboration with citizens and businesses to increase environmental and economic progress," ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

Grumbles also said that ADEQ will be more timely in issuing permits and licenses in the future along with making greater use of general permits and relying on more use of the private sector for consulting to speed up the process. For more information or to reserve a space in an upcoming workshop contact Carrolette Winstead at cw6@azdeq.gov.