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ADEQ Seeking Applicants for Panel to Examine Contaminants That May Have Impacts on Drinking Water of Arizona

PHOENIX (June 15, 2012) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is seeking about 15 members for a panel being formed to examine emerging contaminants and develop approaches to ensure the continued safety of the state’s drinking water.

The Advisory Panel on Emerging Contaminants will survey new chemicals and pathogens that threaten the continued safety of drinking water like chemicals from pharmaceuticals and personal care products and pathogens like the Naegleria parasite, Legionella bacterium and Hepatitis A virus. The panel will provide a forum for the open discussion and prioritization of emerging contaminant issues of critical interest to Arizona.

“This is an important panel that will assist in ensuring the continued safety of our drinking water,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “We are looking for volunteers working in state and local government, drinking water utilities and state universities to help us in this task.”

Anyone with expertise in emerging contaminants and interest in being appointed to the panel can send a resume to ADEQ Senior Hydrologist Chuck Graf at cgg@azdeq.gov or by mail to Chuck Graf, Senior Hydrologist; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; 1110 W. Washington St.; Phoenix, AZ. 85007. The deadline for ADEQ receiving resumes is July 30.

The panel is expected to begin its work in early September and meet four or five times a year.

In 2010, Gov. Jan Brewer’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability recommended that the occurrence and threat of emerging contaminants be more fully examined to insure that the state’s water supplies remain safe.

Among the goals of the emerging contaminants panel are to prioritize the most problematic contaminants, promote research on them and provide operational guidelines for minimizing risks to Arizona’s drinking water supplies.

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