



DATE: June 24, 2014

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Media Relations Director, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

ADEQ Officials Announce that Agency's First Groundwater Cleanup Project Using Solar Energy has been Completed

PHOENIX (June 24, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency has completed its first groundwater remediation project using solar energy in an instrumental role and saved nearly \$13,000 in energy-related costs as a result.

Two solar-powered blowers were used as a power source in a process in which gas was removed from wells at the Rainbow Valley Citrus Maintenance Yard in Goodyear. Soil sampling collected during removal of two underground storage tanks earlier indicated that petroleum hydrocarbons leaked from the tanks. The contamination eventually reached the groundwater.

The State Lead Program of ADEQ's Waste Programs Division began cleaning up the site in 2012 and completed it on schedule last month. Two of the 10 onsite wells had gasoline in them. Initially, the contaminants were removed from the two wells by using a vacuum truck before the solar-powered air sparging process began.

"This is a big success story for our use of green energy in environmental cleanups," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. "This was a small project but it demonstrated that this approach can be expanded into larger scale applications."

The two solar-powered blowers were purchased for only \$249 and installation and maintenance costs were minimal. The solar power saved an estimated 20,000 kilowatt hours in traditional electricity from the grid.

To receive press releases by email: <http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html>
Follow ADEQ on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/azdeq>
Follow ADEQ on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ArizonaDEQ>