

Waste Programs

Mission Statement

The mission of the Waste Programs Division is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by reducing the risk associated with waste management, contaminated sites and regulated substances.

Our core responsibilities include:

- Assuring the proper handling, storage, treatment and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, and proper operation and maintenance of underground storage tank (UST) systems
- Promoting pollution prevention and recycling
- Investigating, managing and remediating soil and groundwater that are contaminated with regulated and hazardous substances
- Reviewing and approving construction plans for landfills and special waste facilities
- Investigating complaints and violations of Arizona's solid and hazardous waste, and underground storage tank laws
- Administering payments from the State Assurance Fund (SAF), for reimbursement of eligible costs associated with removal and remediation of leaking USTs

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WASTE PROGRAMS DIVISION



ADEQ
Arizona Department
of Environmental Quality



Waste Programs

REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Permits and Plan Reviews

The Permits Section provides technical review and issues permits to landfills; biohazardous medical waste facilities; and hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Permitting actions include review of detailed design information, operational plans, emergency response plans, and financial assurance for all facilities. The Permits Section also manages corrective actions, including investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination, at permitted waste management facilities.

Inspections and Compliance

The Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste and Underground Storage Tanks (UST), Inspections and Compliance Units inspect facilities on a regular basis and in response to citizen complaints to ensure compliance with environmental laws.



REMEDIAL PROGRAMS

Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP)

Through VRP, interested parties investigate and clean up soil and groundwater contaminated sites in cooperation with ADEQ. ADEQ reviews proposed voluntary remedial actions and provides a determination of no further action after successful site cleanup.



Brownfields Program

The Brownfields Program provides technical and financial assistance toward the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields properties. A brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with redevelopment potential that is complicated by either real or perceived environmental contamination.

Remediation and redevelopment of brownfields reduces potential environmental hazards, encourages economic development, and efficiently uses existing utilities and roads.



Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)

Through the WQARF program, ADEQ identifies, investigates and cleans up soil, groundwater and surface water contaminated with hazardous substances. WQARF was created under the Environmental Quality Act of 1986 to help support hazardous substance cleanup efforts in the state. Currently there are 35 WQARF sites in the state.

Superfund Programs

The Federal Projects Unit manages National Priorities List sites (also referred to as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 sites or federal superfund sites). NPL sites may have soil, surface water or groundwater contaminated with



hazardous substances. The purpose of the program is to ensure protection of human health and the environment through appropriate characterization and cleanup of high priority sites.

Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program

The Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program investigates and coordinates efforts to clean up leaking USTs once a release has occurred. These efforts may include overseeing cleanups performed by the UST owner, operator or a volunteer who is willing to assume responsibility. ADEQ also may perform corrective actions itself using consultants who are on state contract.



State Assurance Fund (SAF)

UST releases that were reported before July 1, 2006 may qualify for the State Assurance Fund (SAF). The SAF assists eligible underground storage tank owners, operators and others in meeting the potentially high costs of leaking UST investigations and cleanups. The SAF provides administrative, technical and cost reviews of applications and reimburses up to 90% of eligible costs to eligible applicants.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Recycling Program

The Recycling Program encourages Arizonans to reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled products as an alternative to solid waste disposal in landfills. The program provides assistance to communities and organizations in developing recycling programs, accessing markets for recycled materials and educating people about the benefits of recycling.



Community Involvement

The Waste Programs Division is committed to involving citizens in the remediation of the hazardous substance contamination at sites throughout the state. It is designed to keep citizens informed about site progress and give them the opportunity to express their concerns, issues and opinions to assist ADEQ in determining the best way to move forward.

Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention, or P2, is accomplished by eliminating or reducing the generation of hazardous wastes and the use of toxic substances and by improving indoor air quality, reducing energy and water use, and implementing other practices that conserve and protect natural resources. The P2 program requires all industrial facilities that exceed certain thresholds of hazardous waste generation and toxic substance use to analyze potential P2 opportunities and to file an annual P2 plan.

