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Eastern Arizona Town of Eagar Joins ADEQ's Small Communities Compliance Assistance Program

PHOENIX (Sept. 30, 2009) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the Town of Eagar in Apache County is the most recent municipality to participate in ADEQ's statewide program to help communities comply with state and federal environmental regulations.

ADEQ began its Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance project in 2007 for small towns and special water and wastewater districts to sustain compliance with state and federal environmental laws and reduce the number of violations and enforcement actions. Eagar is the seventh municipality in the state to join the program along with Willcox, Safford, Springerville, Winslow, Pima and Miami.

As part of the program, Eagar agrees to disclose known environmental violations within the town, request compliance assistance before enforcement actions begin, participate in compliance evaluation to identify violations and to promptly correct known violations. In so doing, the town will be eligible for up to a 100 percent penalty reduction if it has future environmental violations.

"We congratulate Eagar for leading the way on environmental cooperation and sustainability and hope other small towns will join the program," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. "Small communities in the state have limited financial resources and we are committed to helping them comply with environmental laws and be good green stewards."

Town of Eagar officials will be presented with a certificate of their achievement at the Apache and Navajo Counties Mayor and Councilmembers Association quarterly meeting at noon on Oct. 5 at the Show Low Public Library.

The project was funded by a \$12,000 grant from the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) for the communities to develop Small Community Environmental Protection Plans (SCEPP) to improve compliance. Guidance materials, including a comprehensive manual, have been prepared to train small communities on environmental requirements and help with SCEPP development.

More information about the program:

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

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