



DATE: Dec. 15, 2014

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ADEQ Celebrates Safe Drinking Water Act 40th Anniversary With Stories Examining Improvements in State's Water

PHOENIX (Dec. 15, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will be celebrating Tuesday's 40th anniversary of the national Safe Drinking Water Act with a series of stories on ADEQ's website Tuesday through Friday illustrating ADEQ's successes in protecting the state's drinking water.

Among the subjects to be addressed are:

- Tuesday, Dec. 16, a national overview of the significance of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Wednesday, Dec. 17, how Arizona's Source Water Protection Program has been protecting the drinking water since 2008 of more than 12,000 students in 30 schools that have their own public water systems.
- Thursday, Dec. 18, ADEQ's Monitoring Assistance Program (MAP) has assisted nearly 700 small public water systems in the state conduct proper monitoring since 1999 to ensure that their drinking water meets state and federal safe drinking water standards.
- Friday, Dec. 19, the Operator Certification Program of ADEQ has conducted nearly 250 free workshops since 2001 on a variety of topics for more than 11,000 operators of drinking water and wastewater systems in 14 municipalities throughout the state.

The stories will be posted daily on ADEQ's website at
http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/safe_dw_act_40.html.

"ADEQ's mission is to protect public health and the environment and providing safe drinking water is a critical part of that mission," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "I encourage everyone to read the stories that we post on our web site this week to familiarize themselves with, and take advantage of, the services that we offer."

For more information about protecting source water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's web page on the subject at:
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/sourcewater/protection/index.cfm>

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