ADEQ’s Drinking Water Programs:  
*Initiatives to assist small drinking water systems*

Our mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona.  
January 25, 2017
More than 6 million people in Arizona get drinking water from a regulated public water system overseen by ADEQ.
Water Quality Division – Baseline

Public Water System Compliance Rate
Baseline- July 2016 (EPA’s ETT)

Out of Compliance: 36%
In Compliance: 64%

FY 17 Goal: Increase the number of public water systems in compliance to 70% by 7/1/17.

Agency Strategic Plan

GOALS
- Support Environmentally Responsible Economic Growth
- Enhance Arizona’s Unique Environment
- Accelerate cleanups

STRATEGIES
- Unleash Human Potential
- Deploy Lean
- Leverage E-Technology
- Increase Outreach
- Strengthen Core Programs
2016 Drinking Water Program’s Initiatives

- Created the Compliance Assistance Coordinator Model
- Revamped inspection process including pre-inspection checklist and outreach
- Transformed process to receive Monitoring Assistance Program water samples digitally
- Developed and implemented strategies to assist PWS in acquiring and maintaining capacity
- Lead in Drinking Water at Schools Project
- Designed a cohesive case referral process between Program Units
Monitoring and Protection Unit

Compliance Assistance Coordinator Model

- Diversified staff training to allow our customers, public water systems, to have One point of Contact
- Assigned counties to specific coordinators
- Revamped internal process to refer violations to enforcement staff
- Eliminated loss of knowledge with cross training
Inspections and Compliance

- Provide Pre-Inspection Checklists
- Provide regular outreach and training for water systems
- Work with ADEQ’s Compliance Assistance Coordinators to help systems get back into compliance more quickly

Goal: Increase the number of facilities in compliance at the time of inspection by 50% over 5 years.
Monitoring Assistance Program (MAP)

MAP helps small drinking water systems comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act by assuring adequate collection, transportation, analysis and reporting of regulated drinking water contaminants.

Lab-to-state model automated reporting data for water quality samples.

Results:
- Quickly identify systems out of compliance
- Reduced data reporting time lag
- Eliminated hand entry of data, allowing more accurate reporting levels
Capacity Development

Goal: Develop strategies to assist small public water systems to achieve & maintain *sustainable* compliance with environmental regulations.

- Provide statewide technical & regulation trainings for owners & managers of small water systems
- ADEQ Community Liaisons contact systems with violations, and offer additional support
- Offer compliance assistance through engineering review staff, technical assistance providers, and local non-profits to help develop & maintain operation plans
- Assist in identifying available funding sources
FY17 Percent Small PWS in Compliance - LAG

- Baseline: 64.4%
- Jul-16: 76.6%
- Aug-16: 82.8%
- Sep-16: 85.96%
- Oct-16: 85.22%
- Nov-16: 83.2%
- Dec-16: 82.5%
- Jan-17: 70%
- Feb-17: 70%
- Mar-17: 70%
- Apr-17: 70%
- May-17: 70%
- Jun-17: 70%
• Lead in Drinking Water at Schools Project
Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can be found throughout a child's environment.

1. Homes built before 1978 (when lead-based paints were banned) probably contain lead-based paint.

2. Certain water pipes may contain lead.

3. Lead can be found in some products such as toys and toy jewelry.

4. Lead is sometimes in candies imported from other countries or traditional home remedies.

5. Certain jobs and hobbies involve working with lead-based products, like stain glass work, and may cause parents to bring lead into the home.

Source: North Carolina Health news
What about AZ

- 1,570 Public schools
- 12,690 Public school buildings
- 1,124,702 Kids in school (FY 16 - includes charter schools)
- 625 Charter schools
- 7% Of schools tested in 2004 showed elevated levels of lead

85 Schools provide their own water

Testing shows 4 systems in the past few years exceeded Safe Drinking Water Act Pb Action Level
Lead in Drinking Water at Schools Project

Next steps:
• Identify schools that meet testing prioritization
• Schedule testing and provide information & training through designated website
• Sample all buildings built before 1987

Testing Prioritization of Schools

- School buildings built before 1987
- Schools with children five & younger
- Schools in areas found with high lead level in blood tests
What is ADEQ doing?

A **no cost** to schools lead in drinking water screening program

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**Goal**

Sample water at 7,000 AZ school buildings by May 1st
What do we have?

- 7,000 school buildings to be sampled
  - All school buildings built before 1987
  - Random sampling of other school buildings
  - 2 samples per building (drinking fountains, kitchen or classroom sinks)

- Simple sampling protocol
- Analytical labs lined up
- Communications toolkit for schools
What do we need?

• Help!
  – 7,000 school buildings
  • 14,000 samples by May 1st
    – 933 samples per week
    – 186 samples per work day

• Action plan assistance
  – Alternate source of water
  – Confirmation sampling
  – Remediation
  – Future testing

ADEQ prefers that schools take the samples!
Questions?

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