



ON CUE WITH DEQ DRINKING WATER

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MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW ARSENIC STANDARD

Mandatory Compliance • Exemptions • Standardized Monitoring Framework

All community and non transient, community water systems (including new systems) will be required to meet the new compliance and monitoring requirements for the revised arsenic standard by January 23, 2006.

The standard lowers the MCL from 50 parts-per-billion (ppb) to 10 ppb, and more than 300 of Arizona's public water systems are challenged to comply.

Systems needing guidance should refer to ADEQ's Arsenic Master Plan (AMP) for cost-effective treatment options and other technical assistance. This comprehensive guide is located at www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/arsenic.html.

EXEMPTIONS

By law, ADEQ will undertake enforcement action against public water systems in violation of the new arsenic standard. It will apply the rules for exemptions under AZ Administrative Code R18-4-111.

- A water system must effectively demonstrate that all necessary steps to meet compliance requirements are well in progress.
- In determining whether a public water system is unable to comply with the new standard, the Department will consider whether:
- The necessary treatment techniques and capital improvements have been identified and can be completed in a well defined schedule;
- If the public water system needs financial assistance for necessary capital improvements, the system has entered into an agreement to obtain the financial assistance;
- The system has entered into an enforceable agreement to become part of a regional public water system; and
- Necessary management or restructuring changes resulting in compliance are being implemented.
- In the interest of public health and safety, ADEQ will exercise its option to require an interim alternative treatment mode, such as bottled water, until water quality can be improved.

STANDARDIZED MONITORING FRAMEWORK

- Systems can begin sampling in 2005 to satisfy monitoring requirements for compliance.
- Data gathered between January 1, 2005 and January 23, 2006 may be used for compliance purposes if it is consistent with the analytical methodology approved for use by the January 22, 2001 Final Rule at 40 CFR 141.23(k)(1).

- Ground water systems must take one initial sample between 2005 and 2007. Surface water systems must take annual samples.
- Arsenic sampling for community water systems (CWSs) will be covered by the MAP Program. CWSs will be notified of their initial monitoring status and acceptable data can be grandfathered with ADEQ approval.
- For CWSs not covered by the MAP Program, all samples must be collected at each entry point of the distribution system, unless otherwise specified by ADEQ.
- Compliance will be based on a running annual average at each sampling point.
- Systems will not be in violation of the new MCL until 1 year of quarterly samples have been collected (unless fewer samples would cause the running annual average to be exceeded.)
- If a system does not collect all required samples, compliance will be based on the running annual average of the samples collected.

REDUCED MONITORING

- Monitoring relief is geared toward those systems that have results with arsenic levels below the new standard of 10 ppb.
- If the initial monitoring result for arsenic is less than the new MCL of 10 ppb, then ground water systems must collect one sample every three years, while surface water systems must collect annual samples.
- ADEQ will reduce monitoring frequency to once every nine years if warranted by sampling results.

INCREASED MONITORING

- A system with a sampling point result above the MCL of 10 ppb must collect quarterly samples at that sampling point, until the system is reliably and consistently below the MCL.
- In such circumstances, enforcement actions will be taken.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Arsenic Master Plan Quick Link –
www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/arsenic.html
ADEQ, WQD, Drinking Water Section (602) 771 – 4644
www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/
www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/implement.html
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline – (800) 426-4791