

ARIZONA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (AZPDES)

This document gives pertinent information concerning the reissuance of the AZPDES permit listed below. This facility is a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with a design capacity of 1.8 million gallons per day (MGD) and is considered to be a major facility under the AZPDES program. The effluent limitations contained in this permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards listed in Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-11-101 *et seq.* This permit is proposed to be issued for a period of 5 years.

I. PERMITTEE INFORMATION	
Permittee's Name:	City of Somerton
Permittee's Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 638, Somerton AZ 85350
Facility Name:	Somerton Wastewater Treatment Plant
Facility Address or Location:	501 Parkview Ave, Somerton AZ 85350
County:	Yuma
Contact Person(s): Phone/e-mail address	Charles Gutierrez, Public Works Director (928) 722-7322/ charlesgutierrez@somertonaz.gov
AZPDES Permit Number:	AZ0026603
Inventory Number:	105254
LTF Number:	104784

II. STATUS OF PERMIT(S)	
AZPDES permit applied for:	Renewal
Date application received:	August 1, 2024
Date application was determined administratively complete:	August 9, 2024
Previous permit expiration date:	January 27, 2025

208 Consistency:

In accordance with A.A.C. R18-9-A903(6), a permit cannot be issued for any discharge inconsistent with a plan or plan amendment approved under section 208(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Based on review of the application, there are no changes to the facility that require a new determination of consistency with the Regional Water Quality Management Plan.

City of Somerton has the following permits issued by ADEQ applicable to the Somerton Wastewater Treatment Plant:		
Type of Permit		
Aquifer Protection Permit (APP)	P-105254	Regulates discharges to the local aquifer

III. GENERAL FACILITY INFORMATION	
Type of Facility:	Publicly owned treatment works (POTW)
Facility Location Description:	Approximately ½ mile southwest of downtown Somerton and adjacent to the Yuma Main Drain
Permitted Design Flow:	1.8 MGD
Treatment Level (WWTP):	Secondary
Treatment Processes:	Treatment process at the WWTP consists of solids pretreatment, initial bar screen, biological treatment with clarifiers in conjunction with aerobic digester process units, and chlorine disinfection with sodium hypochlorite.
Sludge Handling and Disposal:	Sludge is handled by a dewatering screw press and treated to Class B biosolids. Biosolids are sent to AgTech for land application in Somerton, Arizona.
Nature of Facility Discharge:	Domestic wastewater from residential sources.
Total Number of Significant Industrial Users (SIUs):	0
Average Flow Per Discharge:	0.807
Service Area:	City of Somerton
Service Population:	18,000
Reuse / Irrigation or other disposal method(s):	All discharge is released into the canal. No reuse or other disposal methods.
Continuous or Intermittent Discharge:	Continuous

IV. RECEIVING WATER	
The State of Arizona has adopted water quality standards to protect the designated uses of its surface waters. Streams have been divided into segments and designated uses assigned to these segments. The water quality standards vary by designated use depending on the level of protection required to maintain that use.	
Receiving Water (Federal):	The Water of the U.S. Protected Surface Water (WOTUS PSW) for facility/ outfall is the Yuma Water User's Association Main Drain, which is listed in A.A.C. R18-11 Appendix B as a Yuma Area Canal below municipal water treatment plant intakes and all drains.
River Basin:	Colorado – Lower Gila River Basin
Outfall Location(s):	Outfall 001: Township 10S, Range 24W, Section 4 Latitude 32° 35' 23", Longitude 114° 43' 32" W

Designated uses for the receiving water listed above:	Agricultural Irrigation (Agl) Agricultural Livestock watering (AgL)
Is the receiving water on the 303(d) list?	No, and there are no TMDL issues associated.
<p>Given the uses stated above, the applicable narrative water quality standards are described in A.A.C. R18-11-108, and the applicable numeric water quality standards are listed in A.A.C. R18-11-109 and in Appendix A thereof. There are two standards for the Aquatic and Wildlife uses, acute and chronic. In developing AZPDES permits, the standards for all applicable designated uses are compared and limits that will protect for all applicable designated uses are developed based on the standards.</p>	

V. DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE		
<p>Because the facility is in operation and discharges have occurred, effluent monitoring data are available. The following is the measured effluent quality reported in the application.</p>		
Parameters	Units	Maximum Daily Discharge Concentration
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	16
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	26
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	mg/L	18.2
<i>E. coli</i>	cfu/100 mL	2,420
Facility Design Removal Rates:		BOD 92 % TSS 92 % N 80 %

VI. STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXISTING AZPDES PERMIT	
Date of Most Recent Inspection:	January 17, 2023; foam and sheen were documented on 1/17/2024 from Outfall 001.
Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) Reviewed:	01/28/2020 through 09/06/2024
Lab Reports Reviewed:	01/28/2020 through 09/06/2024
DMR Exceedances:	No exceedances were noted.
Notice(s) of Violation (NOV) Issued:	None
NOVs Closed:	N/A
Formal Enforcement Action(s):	None

VII. PROPOSED PERMIT CHANGES

The following table lists the major changes from the previous permit in this permit.

Parameter	Existing Permit	Proposed Permit	Reason for Change
Noncompliance Reporting Hotline	(602) 771-2330	Noncompliance resulting in imminent threat to human health or the environment must be reported to (602) 771-2330, while all other noncompliance must be reported to (602) 771-1440.	Routing emergency calls to the emergency hotline, but all other calls to a non-emergency number.
Reporting Location for Effluent Characterization Monitoring	Submit results through DMRs	Report results on the EC Monitoring Data Sheet Excel form provided by ADEQ and submit annually to azpdes_data@azdeq.gov by January 28 th following each annual reporting period. See Part II.B.3 of permit. Laboratory reports for EC monitoring shall be submitted through myDEQ with the last DMR of the calendar year. See Part II.B.3.b. of the permit.	ADEQ is implementing this new procedure to facilitate data analysis by ADEQ and reporting by permittees. Outcomes include expedited data processing and improved data quality review, per ADEQ Surface Water Protection Quality Assurance Program Plan (2022).
Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) Reporting Requirements	Limited explanation of analytical requirements for LOQ and sufficiently sensitive test methods.	Analytical test sensitivity requirements are specified in the footnotes of Part I Tables 1-3 of the permit and associated definitions in Appendix A. Part B. The requirement to use sufficiently sensitive test methods is specified in Part II.A.5.	The Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) must be low enough to allow comparison of the results to the applicable water quality standards (WQS) to be protective of the receiving water designated uses. New language clarifies the requirement that parameters must be analyzed using sufficiently sensitive test methods in accordance with 40 CFR 136.1(c).

Discharge Flow Record	Not Required	Reporting required using the template provided See Part II.B.2 and Appendix B of permit	Discharge flow records are necessary to understand the actual discharge from a point source. The Discharge flow record template is provided in Appendix B of the permit and must be submitted as an attachment to DMRs by the 28 th day of the month following the end of a monitoring period.
Boron and Cadmium	Effluent Characterization testing only	Limited	Data submitted indicated reasonable potential (RP) for an exceedance of a standard.
Chromium VI	Conditional Effluent Characterization Testing required	No monitoring required	The current permit requires monitoring only under the condition that total chromium exceeds 8 µg/L. However, there is no applicable water quality standard for Chromium VI for the AgI or AgL designated uses of the receiving water and monitoring is not necessary to be protective of the applicable designated uses.
<p>Anti-backsliding considerations — “Anti-backsliding” refers to statutory (Section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act) and regulatory (40 CFR 122.44(l)) requirements that prohibit the renewal, reissuance, or modification of an existing NPDES permit that contains effluent limits, permit conditions, or standards that are less stringent than those established in the previous permit. The rules and statutes do identify exceptions to these circumstances where backsliding is acceptable. This permit has been reviewed and drafted with consideration of anti-backsliding concerns.</p> <p>No limits have been removed from the permit. Limits are retained in the permit for parameters where reasonable potential (RP) for an exceedance of a standard continues to exist or is indeterminate. In these cases, limits will be recalculated using the most current Arizona Water Quality Standards (WQS). If less stringent limits result due to a change in the WQS then backsliding is allowed in accordance with 303(d)(4) if the new limits are consistent with antidegradation requirements and the receiving water is in attainment of the new standard; see Section XII for information regarding antidegradation requirements.</p>			

VIII. DETERMINATION OF EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS and ASSESSMENT LEVELS

When determining what parameters need monitoring and/or limits included in the permit, both technology-based and water quality-based criteria were compared and the more stringent criteria applied.

Technology-based Limitations: As outlined in 40 CFR Part 133:

The regulations found at 40 CFR §133 require that POTWs achieve specified treatment standards for BOD, TSS, and pH based on the type of treatment technology available. Therefore, technology-based effluent limitations (TBELs) have been established in the permit for these parameters. Additionally, oil & grease will be monitored with an assessment level based on best professional judgment (BPJ). The average monthly assessment level of 10 mg/L and daily maximum of 15 mg/L are commonly accepted values that can be achieved by properly operated and maintained WWTPs. This level is also considered protective of the narrative standard at A.A.C. R18-11-108(B).

Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations:

Per 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(ii), (iii) and (iv), discharge limits must be included in the permit for parameters with “reasonable potential” (RP), that is, those known to be or expected to be present in the effluent at a level that could potentially cause any applicable numeric water quality standard to be exceeded. Numeric water quality standards are outlined in A.A.C. R18-11-109 and Appendix A. RP refers to an analysis, based on the statistical calculations using the data submitted or consideration of other factors, to determine whether the discharge may exceed the Water Quality Standards. The procedures used to determine RP are outlined in the *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control (TSD)* (EPA/505/2-90-001). In most cases, the highest reported value for a parameter is multiplied by a factor (determined from the variability of the data and number of samples) to determine a “highest estimated value.” This value is then compared to the lowest applicable Water Quality Standard for the receiving water. If the value is greater than the standard, RP exists and a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) is required in the permit for that parameter. RP may also be determined from BPJ based on knowledge of the treatment facilities and other factors. The basis for the RP determination for each parameter with a WQBEL is shown in the table below.

It is assumed that RP exists for exceedance of water quality criteria for the pollutants *E. coli* and, if chlorine or bromine is used in the treatment process, total residual chlorine (TRC). These parameters have been shown through extensive monitoring of WWTPs to fluctuate greatly and thus are not conducive to exclusion from limitation due to a lack of RP. Therefore, the permit contains WQBELs for *E. coli* and TRC.

The proposed permit limits were established using a methodology developed by EPA. Long Term Averages (LTA) were calculated for each designated use and the lowest LTA was used to calculate the average monthly limit (AML) and maximum daily limit (MDL) necessary to protect all uses. This methodology takes into account criteria, effluent variability, and the number of observations taken to determine compliance with the limit and is described in Chapter 5 of the TSD. Limits based on A&W criteria were developed using the “two-value steady state wasteload allocation” described on page 99 of the TSD. When the limit is based on human health criteria, the monthly average was set at the level of the applicable standard and a daily maximum limit was determined as specified in Sections 5.4.4 and 5.5.3 of the TSD.

Mixing Zone

The limits in this permit were determined without the use of a mixing zone. Arizona state water quality rules require that water quality standards be achieved without mixing zones unless the permittee applies for and is approved for a mixing zone. Since a mixing zone was not applied for or granted, all water quality criteria are applied at end-of-pipe.

Assessment Levels (ALs)

ALs are listed in Part I.B of the permit. An AL differs from a discharge limit in that an exceedance of an AL is not a permit violation. Instead, ALs serve as triggers, alerting the permitting authority when there is cause for re-evaluation of RP for exceeding a water quality standard, which may result in new permit limitations. The AL numeric values also serve to advise the permittee of the analytical sensitivity needed for meaningful data collection. Trace substance monitoring is required when there is uncertain RP (based on non-detect values or limited datasets) or a need to collect additional data or monitor treatment efficacy on some minimal basis. A reopener clause is included in the permit should future monitoring data indicate water quality standards are being exceeded.

The requirement to monitor for these parameters is included in the permit according to A.A.C. R18-11-104(C) and Appendix A. The ALs for oil and grease were determined based on BPJ as described above.

The following trace substances were not included as limits or assessment levels in the permit due to a lack of RP based on best professional judgment (BPJ): barium, nitrates, nitrites, and manganese. The numeric standards for these pollutants are well above what would be expected from a WWTP discharge.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)

ADEQ does not require WET testing if the receiving water has no aquatic and wildlife designated uses. Although the narrative standard prohibiting the discharge of toxic pollutants applies to all discharges, the test species are not appropriate for these receiving waters and no alternative tests are readily available. Therefore, WET testing is not required in this permit.

Effluent Characterization (EC)

In addition to monitoring for parameters assigned either a limit or an AL, sampling is required to assess the presence of pollutants in the discharge at certain minimum frequencies for additional suites of parameters, whether the facility is discharging or not. This monitoring is specified in Tables 3.a. through 3.f., *Effluent Characterization Testing*, as follows:

- Table 3.a.—General Chemistry and Microbiology: ammonia, BOD-5, *E. coli*, total residual chlorine (TRC), dissolved oxygen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), nitrate/nitrite, oil and grease, pH, phosphorus, temperature, total dissolved solids (TDS), and total suspended solids (TSS)
- Table 3.b. —Selected Metals, Hardness, and Cyanide
- Table 3.c. —Selected Volatile Organic Compounds
- Table 3.d. —Selected Acid-Extractable Compounds
- Table 3.e. —Selected Base-Neutral Compounds
- Table 3.f. —Additional Parameters Based on Designated Uses (from Arizona Surface Water Quality Standards, Appendix A, Table 1)

NOTE: Some parameters listed in Tables 3.a. and 3.b. are also listed in Tables 1 or 2. In this case, the data from monitoring under Tables 1 or 2 may be used to satisfy the requirements of **Tables 3.a. and / or 3.b.**, provided the specified sample types are the same. In the event the facility does not discharge to a Protected Surface Water during the life of the permit, EC monitoring of representative samples of the effluent is still required.

The purpose of EC monitoring is to characterize the effluent and determine if the parameters of concern are present in the discharge and at what levels. This monitoring will be used to assess RP per 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(iii). EC monitoring is required in accordance with 40 CFR 122.43(a), 40 CFR 122.44(i), and 40 CFR 122.48(b) as well as A.R.S. §49-203(A)(7). If pollutants are noted at levels of concern during the permit term, this permit may also be reopened to add related limits or conditions.

Permit Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

Table 1 summarizes the parameters that are limited in the permit and the rationale for that decision. Also included are the parameters that require monitoring without any limitations or that have not been included in the permit at all and the basis for those decisions. The corresponding monitoring requirements are shown for each parameter. In general, the regulatory basis for monitoring requirements is per 40 CFR §122.44(i) *Monitoring requirements*, and 40 CFR §122.48(b), *Required monitoring*; all of which have been adopted by reference in A.A.C. R18-9-A905, *AZPDES Program Standards*.

DRAFT

Table 1. Permit limitations and monitoring requirements.

Parameter	Lowest Standard/Designated Use	Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/Rationale (1)
Flow	---	---	---	---	---	Discharge flow is to be monitored on a continual basis using a flow meter.
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30 mg/L 30-day average 45 mg/L 7-day average Technology-based limits 40 CFR 133.102	BOD: 16 mg/L TSS: 26 mg/L	BOD: 258 TSS: 26	N/A	TBELs for BOD and TSS are always applicable to WWTPs.	Monitoring for influent and effluent BOD and TSS to be conducted using composite samples of the influent and the effluent. The sample type required was chosen to be representative of the discharge. The requirement to monitor influent BOD and suspended solids is included to assess compliance with the 85% removal requirement in this permit.
Chlorine, Total Residual (TRC)	No applicable numeric standard	No data	0	N/A	RP always expected when chlorine or bromine is used for disinfection.	TRC is to be monitored as a discrete sample and a WQBEL is set. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that discrete samples must be collected for chlorine.
<i>E. coli</i>	30-day geometric mean: 126 cfu /100 mL (4 sample minimum) Single sample maximum: 575 cfu /100 mL/ PBC PBC standard applied based on technology-based limit based on best professional judgement (BPJ)	2,420	1,825	N/A	RP always expected for WWTPs. See explanation above.	<i>E. coli</i> is to be monitored as a discrete sample and a TBEL remains in the permit.
pH	Minimum: 6.5 Maximum: 9.0 Technology-based limits 40 CFR 133.102	7.8	60	N/A	WQBEL or TBEL is always applicable to WWTPs.	pH is to be monitored using a discrete sample of the effluent and a WQBEL is set. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that grab samples must be collected for pH
Temperature	No applicable numeric standard	8.2 °C	244	N/A	N/A	Effluent temperature is to be monitored for effluent characterization by discrete sample. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that discrete samples must be collected for temperature.
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	No applicable standard	13,701 mg/L	20	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Nutrients (Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus)	No applicable standards	N: 70 mg/L P: 7.07 mg/L	N: 53 P: 17	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Oil & Grease	BPJ Technology-Based Level of 10 mg/L monthly average and 15 mg/L daily maximum	<5 mg/L	57	N/A	No RP (2)	Monitoring required and an assessment level remains in the permit.

Table 1. Permit limitations and monitoring requirements.

Parameter	Lowest Standard/Designated Use	Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/Rationale (1)
Antimony	No applicable standard.	<2.5 µg/L	20	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Arsenic	200 µg/L AgL	<5 µg/L	20	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Beryllium	No applicable standard.	<2 µg/L	20	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Boron	1,000 µg/L Agl	560 µg/L	8	1,865 µg/L	RP exists	Monitoring required and a WQBEL is set.
Cadmium	50 µg/L Agl	27 µg/L	20	162 µg/L	RP exists	Monitoring required and a WQBEL is set.
Chromium (Total)	1,000 µg/L AgL and Agl	<5 µg/L	20	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Chromium VI	No applicable standard	No Data	0	N/A	N/A	Monitoring not required.
Copper	500 µg/L AgL	<10 µg/L	7	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Cyanide	200 µg/L AgL	<10 µg/L	17	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Hardness	No applicable standard.	480 mg/L	10	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Iron	No applicable standard	73 µg/L	17	178 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization
Lead	100 µg/L AgL	<2 µg/L	16	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization
Mercury	10 µg/L AgL	<2 µg/L	18	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Nickel	No applicable standard	<20 µg/L	17	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Selenium	20 µg/L Agl	<4 µg/L	17	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization
Silver	No applicable standard	<2 µg/L	7	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Thallium	No applicable standard	<1 µg/L	17	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Zinc	10,000 µg/L Agl	7 µg/L	43	86.7 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.

Footnotes:

1. The monitoring frequencies are as specified in the permit.
2. Monitoring with ALs or Action Levels always required for WWTPs for these parameters unless RP exists and limits are set.

VIII. NARRATIVE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

All narrative limitations in A.A.C. R18-11-108 that are applicable to the receiving water are included in Part I, Section D of the permit.

IX. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Part II of Permit)

Section 308 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR Part 122.44(i) require that monitoring be included in permits to determine compliance with effluent limitations. Additionally, monitoring may be required to gather data for future effluent limitations or to monitor effluent impacts on receiving water quality.

Monitoring frequencies are based on the nature and effect of the pollutant, as well as a determination of the minimum sampling necessary to adequately monitor the facility's performance. Monitoring frequencies for some parameters may be reduced in subsequent permits if all monitoring requirements have been met and the limits or ALs for those parameters have not been exceeded during the first permit term.

For the purposes of this permit, a "24-hour composite" sample has been defined as a flow-proportioned mixture of not less than three discrete samples (aliquots) obtained at equal time intervals over a 24-hour. The volume of each aliquot shall be directly proportional to the discharge flow rate at the time of sampling.

These criteria for composite sampling are included in order to obtain samples that are representative of the discharge given the potential variability in the duration, frequency and magnitude of discharges from this facility.

Discrete (i.e., grab) samples are specified in the permit for parameters that for varying reasons are not amenable to compositing.

Monitoring locations are specified in the permit (Part II.A and Part III.J) in order to ensure that representative samples of the influent and effluent are consistently obtained.

The requirements in the permit pertaining to Part II, Monitoring and Reporting, are included to ensure that the monitoring data submitted under this permit is accurate in accordance with 40 CFR 122.41(j). The permittee has the responsibility to determine that all data collected for purposes of this permit meet the requirements specified in this permit and is collected, analyzed, and properly reported to ADEQ.

The permit (Part II.A.3) requires the permittee to keep a Quality Assurance (QA) manual at the facility, describing sample collection and analysis processes; the required elements of the QA manual are outlined.

Reporting requirements for monitoring results are detailed in Part II, Section B of the permit, including completion and submittal of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and AZPDES Flow Record forms.

The permittee is responsible for conducting all required monitoring and reporting the results to ADEQ on DMRs or as otherwise specified in the permit.

Electronic reporting

The US EPA has published a final regulation that requires electronic reporting and sharing of Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program information instead of the current paper-based reporting (Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 204, October 22, 2015). Beginning December 21, 2016 (one year after the effective date of the regulation), the Federal rule required permittees to make electronic submittals of any monitoring reports and forms called for in their permits. ADEQ has created an online portal called myDEQ that allows users to submit their discharge monitoring reports and other applicable reports required in the permit.

Requirements for retention of monitoring records are detailed in Part II.D.1 of the permit.

X. BIOSOLIDS REQUIREMENTS (Part III in Permit)

Standard requirements for the monitoring, reporting, record keeping, and handling of biosolids, as well as minimum treatment requirements for biosolids according to 40 CFR Part 503 are incorporated in the permit.

XI. SPECIAL CONDITIONS (Part V in Permit)

Operation

This permit condition requires the permittee to ensure that the WWTP has an operator who is certified at the appropriate level for the facility, in accordance with A.A.C. R18-5-104 through -114. The required certification level for the WWTP operator is based on the class (Wastewater Treatment Plant) and grade of the facility, which is determined by population served, level of treatment, and other factors.

Permit Reopener

This permit may be modified based on newly available information; to add conditions or limits to address demonstrated effluent toxicity; to implement any EPA-approved new Arizona water quality standard; or to re-evaluate reasonable potential (RP), if assessment levels in this permit are exceeded [A.A.C. R18-9-B906 and 40 CFR Part 122.62 (a) and (b)].

XII. ANTIDegradation

Antidegradation rules have been established under A.A.C. R18-11-107 to ensure that existing surface water quality is maintained and protected. The discharge from the Somerton Wastewater Treatment Plant will be to a canal which is subject to Tier 1 antidegradation protection. Effluent quality limitations and monitoring requirements have been established under the proposed permit to ensure that the discharge will meet the applicable water quality standards. As long as the permittee maintains consistent compliance with these provisions, the designated uses of the receiving water will be presumed protected, and the facility will be deemed to meet currently applicable antidegradation requirements under A.A.C. R18-11-107.

XIII. STANDARD CONDITIONS

Conditions applicable to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 CFR, Part 122 are attached as an appendix to this permit.

XIV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Public Notice (A.A.C. R18-9-A907)

The public notice is the vehicle for informing all interested parties and members of the general public of the contents of a draft AZPDES permit or other significant action with respect to an AZPDES permit or application. The basic intent of this requirement is to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to comment on significant actions of the permitting agency with respect to a permit application or permit. This permit will be public noticed in a local newspaper after a pre-notice review by the applicant and other affected agencies.

Public Comment Period (A.A.C. R18-9-A908)

Rules require that permits be public noticed in a newspaper of general circulation within the area affected by the facility or activity and provide a minimum of 30 calendar days for interested parties to respond in writing to ADEQ. After the closing of the public comment period, ADEQ is required to respond to all significant comments at the time a final permit decision is reached or at the same time a final permit is actually issued.

Public Hearing (A.A.C R18-9-A908(B))

A public hearing may be requested in writing by any interested party. The request should state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised during the hearing. A public hearing will be held if the Director determines there is a significant amount of interest expressed during the 30-day public comment period, or if significant new issues arise that were not considered during the permitting process.

EPA Review (A.A.C. R18-9-A908(C))

A copy of this permit and any revisions made to this draft as a result of public comments received will be sent to EPA Region 9 for review. If EPA objects to a provision of the draft, ADEQ will not issue the permit until the objection is resolved.

XV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information relating to this proposed permit may be obtained from:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division – Surface Water Permits Unit
Attn: Julia Rowe
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Or by contacting Julia Rowe at (520) 628 – 6721 or by e-mail at rowe.julia@azdeq.gov.

XVI. INFORMATION SOURCES

While developing effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and special conditions for the permit, the following information sources were used:

1. AZPDES Permit Application Form(s) 2A and 2S received July 31, 2024, along with supporting data, facility diagram, and maps submitted by the applicant with the application forms.
2. Supplemental information to the application received by ADEQ on August 20, 2024.
3. ADEQ files on Somerton WWTP.
4. ADEQ Geographic Information System (GIS) Web site
5. Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1, *Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters*, adopted December 31, 2016.
6. A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 9. *Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* rules.
7. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40:
 - Part 122, *EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*.
 - Part 124, *Procedures for Decision Making*.
 - Part 133. *Secondary Treatment Regulation*.

Part 503. Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge.

8. EPA Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control dated March 1991.
9. U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual, September 2010.

DRAFT