



# Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

The ADEQ Mission and the Water Quality Assurance  
Revolving Fund (WQARF) Program Process



- Our history: Organized under the Arizona Department of Health Services ADHS until ADEQ became an established environmental regulatory agency under the Environmental Quality Act of 1986.
- Our mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona.
- Our vision: To become the No. 1 State Environmental Agency in the nation leading in environmental protection, technical and operation excellence, and radical simplicity for all.



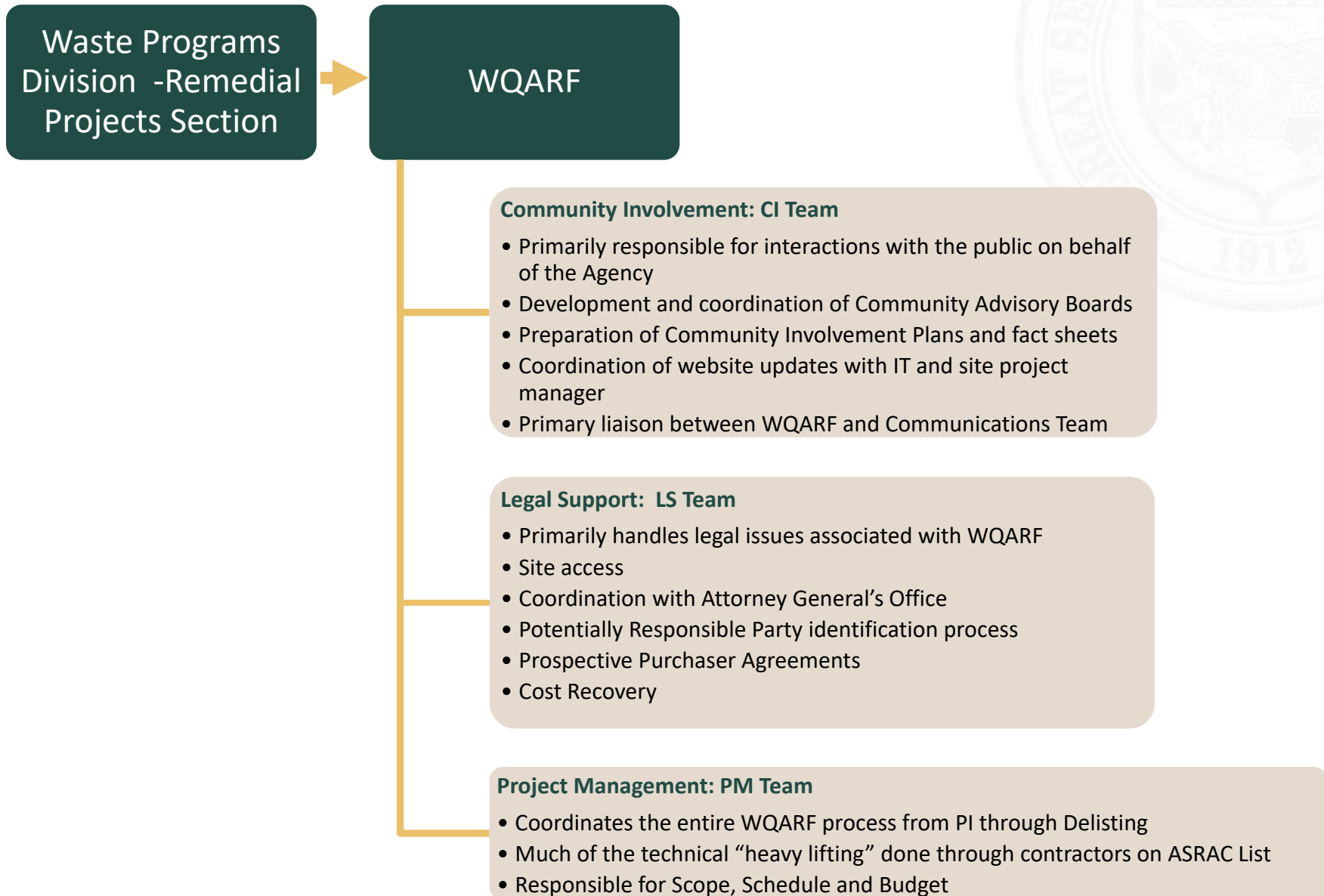
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund

# WQARF

## What is WQARF?

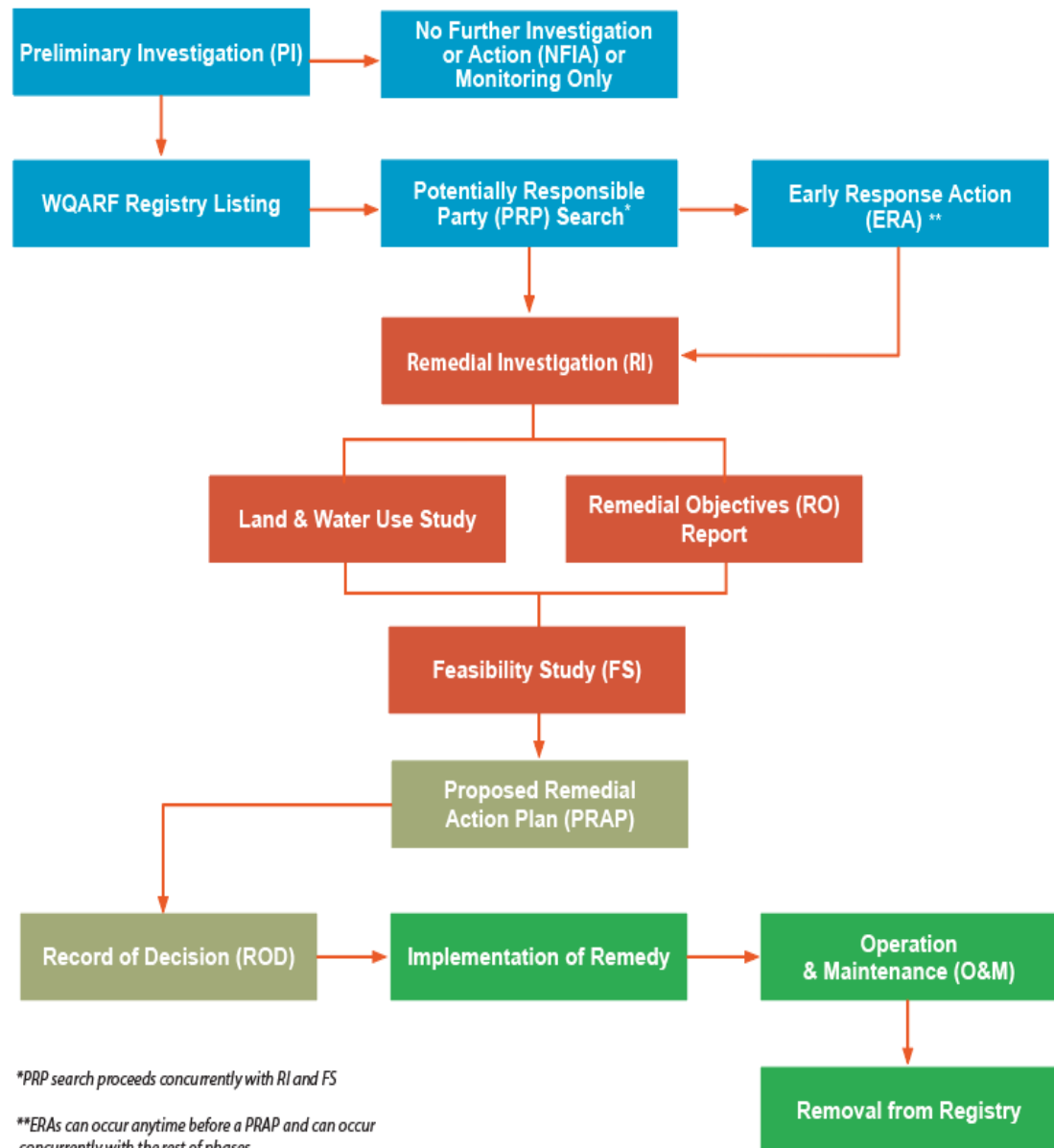
- A state program established in 1986 and revised in 1997 patterned after the Federal Superfund program
- Established to safeguard public health, protect Arizona's unique environment and restore natural resources through investigation, management and remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with hazardous substances.

# The WQARF Program



# Phases of WQARF

- PI - confirms release and determines if further investigation is necessary
- Registry Listing - legally makes it a WQARF site
- RI –determines extent of release and evaluates public/environmental health risk
- FS – provides options to best clean up the site
- PRAP – proposes best clean-up option
- ROD – announces final remedy for the site
- O&M –remedy is implemented and maintained until Site closure



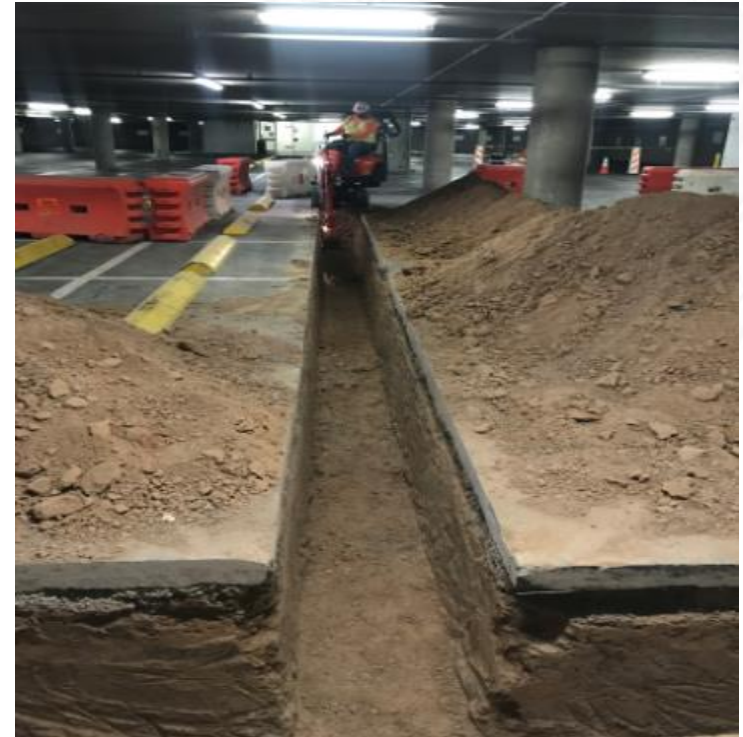
*\*PRP search proceeds concurrently with RI and FS*

*\*\*ERAs can occur anytime before a PRAP and can occur concurrently with the rest of phases*

- The WQARF process begins when ADEQ receives information about a release or potential release of a hazardous substance.
- This information may come from a citizen complaint, an investigation conducted by ADEQ or from an investigation conducted by an outside party.
- ADEQ assesses whether the information is credible, if another regulatory program has jurisdiction, if the site is already being cleaned up voluntarily, or if some additional information is needed.



If it is determined that there is a current risk to human health or the environment, then a remedial action may be taken prior to the selection of the final remedy.



A more robust investigation that involves determining the nature and extent of contamination, a Land and Water Use Study, and development of Remedial Objectives (clean up goals)

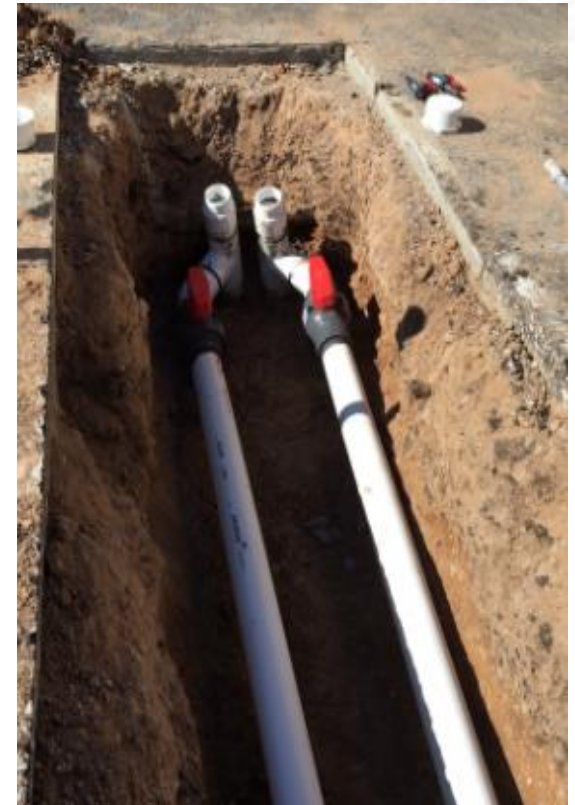




An evaluation of remedial technologies and strategies is conducted to identify the most appropriate method to meet the Remedial Objectives



Based on the information gathered during the RI and FS, ADEQ selects and presents the proposed final remedy for public comment.



The official legal document that finalizes the proposed remedy. Once signed, implementation of the final remedy can begin.



# Operation and Maintenance



After remediation of a Site has occurred, meaning all Remedial Objectives have been met, it can be removed from the WQARF Registry List!



## FY21 MISSION OUTCOMES (OVERALL TOTALS)



**11.6 BILLION**

*Gallons of contaminated groundwater treated*



**MASS REMOVED**

**12,254** pounds of volatile  
organic compounds

**1,280,914** pounds of metals  
and other hazardous wastes



Thank you!