



**PUBLIC HEARING FOR
ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION (AWP)
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE PROPOSED RULES**

Date: October 20, 2026 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Officer: David Lelsz, Ph.D.

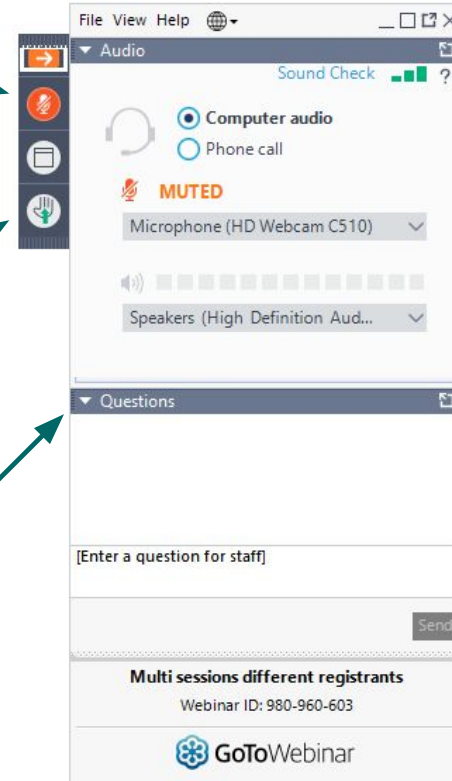
Agenda

- Introduction
- Instruction
- Rule Overview
- Q&A session
- Oral Comment
- Adjourn



Online Tools

- Muted
- Raise Hand function
- Use the Question Tool



Rulemaking Overview



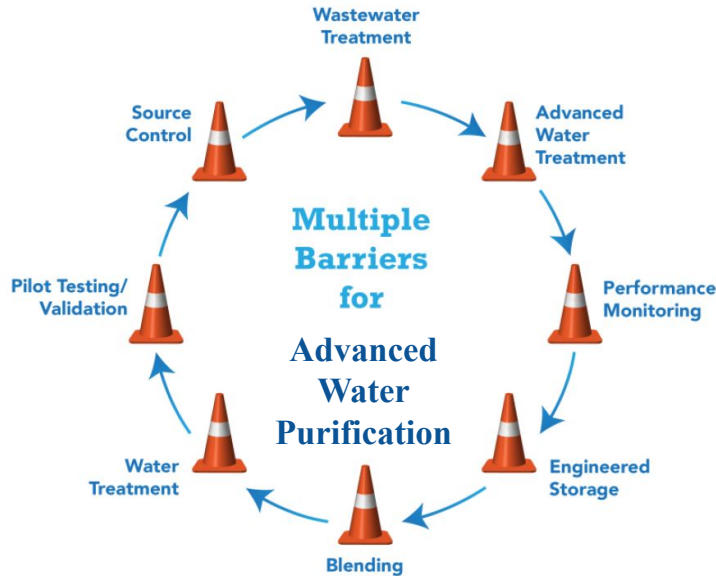
Rulemaking Objective

- **What:**
 - “AWP Implementation Update Rulemaking”
- **Why:**
 - Revisions address issues identified through stakeholder meetings and implementation planning
- **Objective:**
 - Clarify & streamline program implementation while preserving public health protections



Road to Implementation

- Meetings with prospective applicants led to the identification of opportunities to clarify & streamline the rule while maintaining the program's protections.



Collective Rulemaking Package

- A.A.C. Title 18. Environmental Quality:
 - Chapter 1 (DEQ - Administration),
 - Chapter 5 (DEQ - Env. Reviews and Certs),
 - Chapter 9 (DEQ- Water Pollution Control), and
 - Chapter 14 (DEQ - Permit and Compliance Fees).
- Scope:
 - Primary:
 - Tier 2 Chemical Control
 - Demonstration Permit
 - Operator Certification
 - Secondary:
 - Miscellaneous

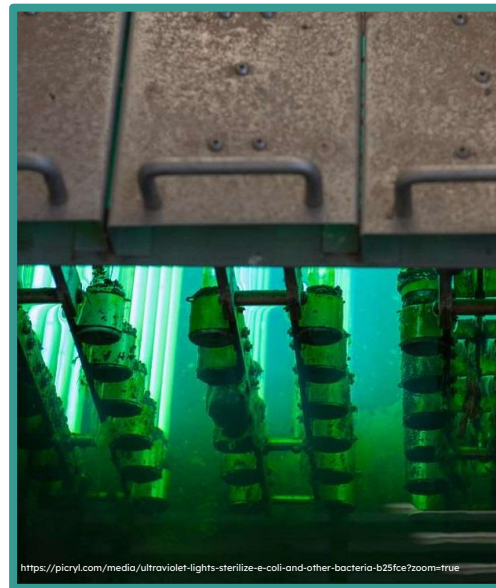


Advanced Water Purification - Program Progression

- March 2026: ADEQ begins “Implementation Update” limited scope rulemaking
- July 2026: ADEQ Releases preliminary draft rule for informal commenting
- July - August 2026: AWP team considers comments and revised preliminary draft rule
- September 18th 2026: ADEQ issues NPRM
- October 19th, 2026: End of formal comment period
- October 20th, 2026: Public Hearing

Tier 2 - Chemical Control

- Reduce complexity and cost by optimizing:
 - Chemical Inventory
 - Focus on Potentially Impactful Non-Domestic Dischargers
 - Authorize "class-representative" groupings (e.g., grouping nail salons or retail centers).
 - Chemical Health Risk Analysis
 - Preliminary screen: existing EPA, ADHS, ASTM, or Standard Methods.
 - Tier 2 Chemical Designation Process
 - Transition from open-ended list to finite, understandable lists (2018 EPA Health Advisories, ADEQ Departmental List, Other States' List, and Oral Toxicity Values List).
- Maintain rule's protection of public health



Demonstration Permit

- What it is:
 - AWP project that showcases the technology for public outreach, water tasting, and educational activities.
 - Does not distribute through a PWS.
- Updates:
 - Add additional permit track
 - Increases flexibility based on limited consumption
- Maintain rule's protection of public health.



AWP Demo Permitting Tracks

REGULATORY TRACK	General Demonstration Permit	Limited Consumption Demonstration Permit
PRIMARY PURPOSE	Showcase AWTF advanced treated water for public outreach, education, and water tasting.	Showcase AWTF advanced treated water under strict, controlled consumption caps.
RECEPTOR & VOLUME CAPS	None	- Prohibited for individuals < 10kg - Volume: 1 Liter/day/person - Duration: < 10 consecutive days per person
AUTOMATIC APPLICATION EXCLUSIONS	- Full-Scale Verification Plan & Report - Public Communications Plan - Vulnerability Assessment	- Full-Scale Verification Plan & Report - Public Communications Plan - Vulnerability Assessment - Enhanced Source Control Program
MINIMUM APPLICATION ELEMENTS (Procedural Similarities)	- Pathogen Control Compliance - Pathogen & Tier 1 Chemical Action Levels - Critical Control Points (CCPs)	- Pathogen Control Compliance - Pathogen & Tier 1 Chemical Action Levels - Critical Control Points (CCPs)
INITIAL SOURCE WATER CHARACTERIZATION	May be abbreviated at Director's discretion.	Minimum abbreviated duration of 3 months more likely to be granted.

AWP Operator Certification & Fees

- Updates:
 - Add more operator flexibility
 - Establish operator certification & examination fees
- Maintain rule's protection of public health.



AWP Program Operator Types

Certification	✓ Requirements	⚙️ Scope & Definition	💧 Impact/Authority
 AWP OPERATOR	- Currently ADEQ-certified as a Grade 3/4 wastewater/drinking water operator. 1–2 years of experience at a corresponding Grade 3/4 facility. - Eligible to sit for & must pass the AWP Validated Examination. - Obtain at least 1 year of advanced water treatment qualifying experience. - Submit AWP operator certification fee.	Shift Operator: “In direct charge of the operation of a treatment facility for a specified period... must be present at the site.” Chief Operator: “Has overall responsibility for the day-to-day, hands-on operation of an AWTF.”	- Operate all AWP facilities including an active full-scale AWTF. - Serve on the AWP certification committee.
 PROVISIONAL OPERATOR	- Currently ADEQ-certified as a Grade 3/4 wastewater/drinking water operator. 1–2 years of experience at a corresponding Grade 3/4 facility. - Eligible to sit for & must pass the AWP Validated Examination. - Submit provisional operator certification fee. * Note: Satisfies all experience & education EXCEPT the requisite advanced water treatment qualifying experience.	“A certified, prospective AWP operator serving as an operator-in-training... Not considered AWP operators and do not hold the status of shift or chief operator.”	- Operate AWP demonstration facilities, AWP pilot facilities, and AWP full-scale verification facilities. - Train at an active full-scale AWTF as a subordinate to an AWP operator. - Serve on the AWP certification committee during the two-year transition period.

Operator Certification Fees

Draft Rule:

- Fees - Examination & Certification:
 - Exam: \$250
 - Provisional Cert.: \$90
 - Op. Cert.: \$90
 - Reciprocity: \$340
 - Renewal: \$60

Proposed Rule:

- Until August 1, 2027 (fixed/reflect current CPI):
 - Exam: \$250
 - Provisional Cert.: \$92.04
 - Op. Cert.: \$92.04
 - Reciprocity: \$353.36
 - Renewal: \$70.88
- Starting on August 1, 2027:
 - Adjusted each year per the CPI

Licensing Time-Frames (LTFs)

Current Rule:

- **Demonstration Permit:**
 - 284 days (no public hearing)
 - 329 days (with public hearing)
- **Demonstration Permit Amendment:**
 - 221 days (no public hearing)
 - 266 days (with public hearing)

Proposed Rule:

- **Demonstration Permit:**
 - 180 days (no public hearing)
 - 220 days (with public hearing)
- **Demonstration Permit Amendment:**
 - 144 days (no public hearing)
 - 189 days (with public hearing)

Miscellaneous Updates

- **Definitions:** Advanced treated water augmentation, AWP permit, Available testing method, Bench Scale, Class-representative, EPDS, Existing Validation Study, Finished Water Augmentation, On-Site Validation Study.
- **Applicability & Prohibitions:** Additional applicability & prohibition language; Merged all existing prohibitions into one section for clarity
- **Enhanced Source Control:** Restructured for organizational clarity
- **Minimum Design Requirements:**
 - Pathogen Removal Credits
 - Existing Validation Studies
 - On-Site Validation Studies
 - Treated Wastewater Conveyance



Q&A Session

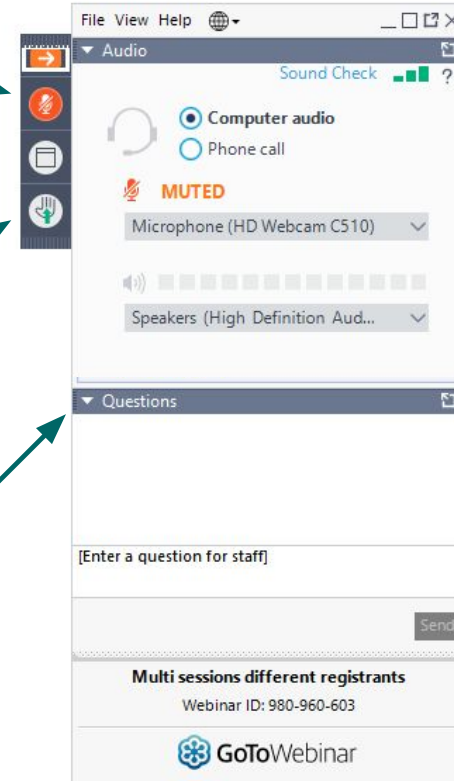


Q&A Session

**Not a comment on the record*

***ADEQ answers during this session or via email*

- Muted
- Use “Raise Hand” function — if you have a question
- Use the Question Tool



Oral Comments

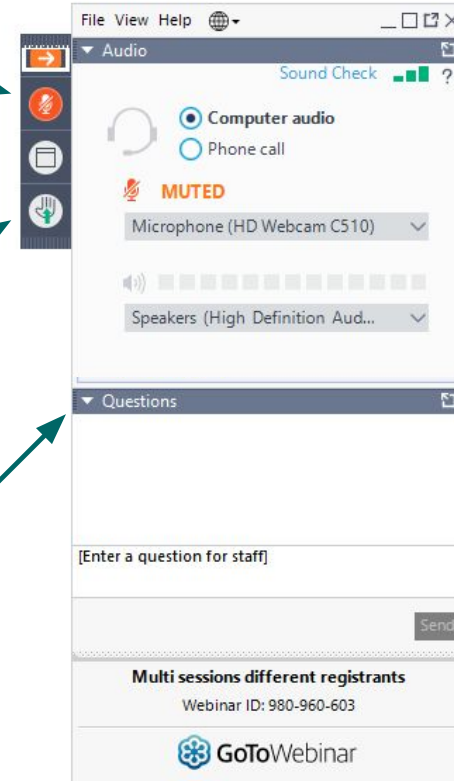


Oral Comments

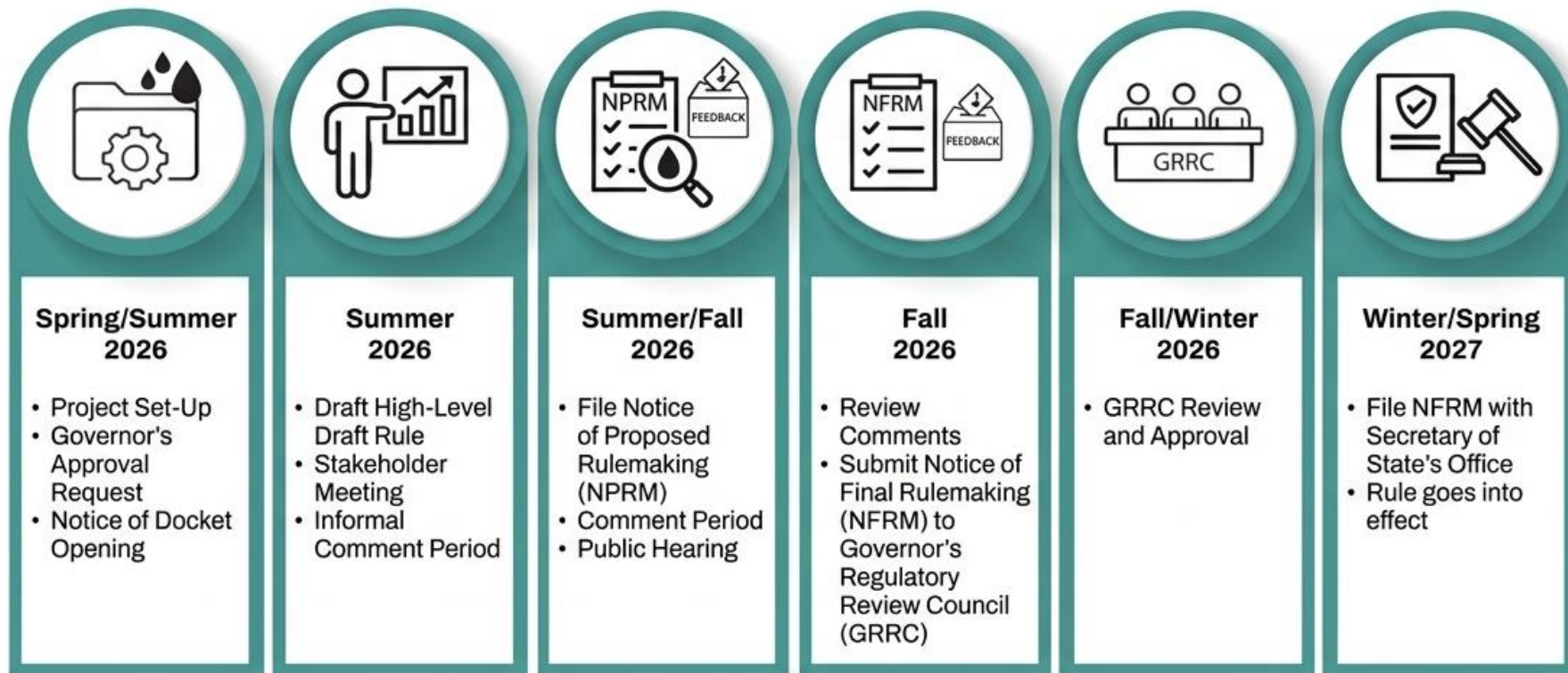
**Comment on the record*

***ADEQ answers in Notice of Final Rulemaking*

- Muted
- Raise your hand if you wish to comment verbally
- Use the Question Tool



Rulemaking Timeline



Resources

Rulemaking Webpage:

<https://azdeq.gov/rulemaking/awp-implementation-update>

Tier 2 Flowchart:

https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/awp/tier2_flowchart.pdf

Tier 2 References:

<https://azdeq.gov/awp/tier2>

Thank You For Attending Today's Public Hearing.

