



**Aquifer Water Quality Standards:  
Underground Storage Facilities (USF)  
Stakeholder Meeting**

Water Quality Division  
February 9, 2026  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

# Introduction



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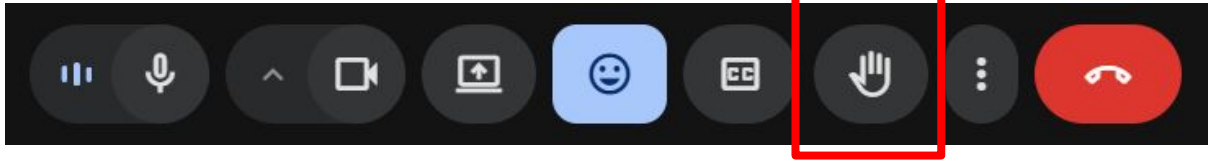
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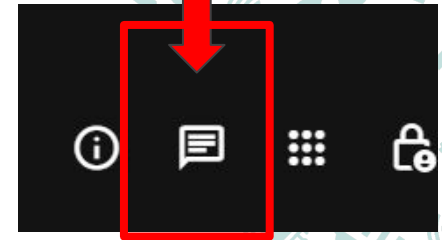
# Meeting Orientation

- Not Recording
- Questions

Raise-Hand  
Function



In-Call Messages



# Agenda

- Agenda
- AWQS History
- USF Administrative Nexus: ADWR & ADEQ
- USFs Categorized by Source Water
- Data Gaps: Path-Forward
- Discussion / Next Steps
- Questions



# Purpose

- USF & AWQS Context
- Administrative Approach
- Data Gaps
- Path-Forward
- Discussion



# History of Aquifer Water Quality Standards – AWQS

- A.R.S. § 49-223
- New SDWA-MCL = Rulemaking to adopt as an AWQS
- 7 new or adjusted MCLs
  - Arsenic, Bromate, Chlorite, Haloacetic Acids, Microbiological Contaminants, Total Trihalomethanes, Uranium
- Adopted August 4th, 2025



# New or Adjusted AWQS

<b><u>Pollutant</u></b>	<b><u>Previous AWQS</u></b>	<b><u>New or Adjusted AWQS</u></b>
<b>Arsenic</b>	0.05 mg/L	0.010 mg/L
<b>Bromate</b>	None	0.010 mg/L
<b>Chlorite</b>	None	1.0 mg/L
<b>Haloacetic Acids</b>	None	0.060 mg/L
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>	1	2
<b>Total Trihalomethanes</b>	0.1 mg/L	0.080 mg/L
<b>Uranium</b>	None	0.030 mg/L

<sup>1</sup> From a requirement to utilize Total Coliform as an indicator parameter in the routine & repeat compliance sampling orientation. (See R18-11-406(F) & 40 CFR 141.63)

<sup>2</sup> To a requirement of either Fecal Coliform or *E. coli* indicator parameters in the routine & repeat compliance sampling orientation.



# USFs: ADWR & ADEQ Nexus

- **A.R.S. § 45-811.01(C)(5) - Underground storage facility permit**
  - ADWR may issue a USF permit if ADEQ determines the USF will not cause unreasonable harm to groundwater criteria.
- **A.R.S. § 45-814.01(F) - Contents of storage facility permit**
  - ADWR may require USF to monitor facility operation & facility impact on other water users in the area & shall cooperate & coordinate monitoring requirements w/ADEQ.



# USFs: Categorized by Source Water

- 40 Facilities in Overall
- Source Water
  - CAP Only: 22
  - CAP, Other Surface Water: 7
  - Other Surface Water: 2
  - Effluent, CAP: 4
  - Effluent, Other Surface Water: 1
  - Effluent, CAP, Other Surface Water: 4



# Non-Effluent Sourced USFs

- 31 Facilities in Total
- Source Water
  - CAP Only: 22
  - Other Surface Water: 2
  - CAP, Other Surface Water: 7



# Effluent Sourced USFs

- 9 Facilities in Total
- Source Water
  - Effluent, CAP: 4
  - Effluent, Other Surface Water: 1
  - Effluent, CAP, Other Surface Water: 4



# Path-Forward Discussion

- Non-Effluent Sourced USFs:
  - DBPs rules out (4 of 7)
  - CAP WQ Report (2 of 3 remaining)
  - Microbiological Parameter adjusted or added to USF
  - Source Water Quality Data Needed for “Other Surface Water” source water component
  
- Effluent Sourced USFs:
  - APP Baseline Monitoring
  - DBP Considerations
  - CAP WQ Report
  - Microbiological Parameter adjusted or added to USF
  - Source Water Quality Data Needed for “Other Surface Water” source water component
  
- Non-Effluent Source Water (31)
  - CAP Only: 22
  - CAP, Other Surface Water: 7
  - Other Surface Water: 2
  
- Effluent Source Water (9)
  - Effluent, CAP: 4
  - Effluent, Other Surface Water: 1
  - Effluent, CAP, Other Surface Water: 4

# Qs for USF Permittees

- Do the USFs with an “Other Surface Water” source component have existing water quality data for the parameters with new or adjusted AWQS for each “Other Surface Water” component of their USF?
- For the facilities with more than one source water component - is it an issue for you to isolate each source from a water quality monitoring perspective?
- For the facilities with Effluent as a source water component - are there any foreseeable issues with ADEQ’s plan to utilize the facility’s Aquifer Protection Permit AWQS Baseline Monitoring data that is being taken from the discharge and groundwater monitoring locations to partially inform potential USF source water and groundwater quality monitoring table update update recommendations?



# Next Steps - Development w/Permittees

- ADEQ needs source water quality data from USF permittees for each “Other Surface Water” source component or a representative characterization of the blended water coming out of the facility to be stored.
- AWQS analysis of:
  - DBP Considerations?
  - CAP WQ Report?
- Recommendation that USF permits be amended w/adjusted Microbiological Contaminants parameter in the appropriate USF monitoring tables unless the facility has adequate soil aquifer treatment?
- For Effluent USFs:
  - Wait for APP AWQS Baseline Monitoring to conclude?



# ADEQ Contacts

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# Questions?

