

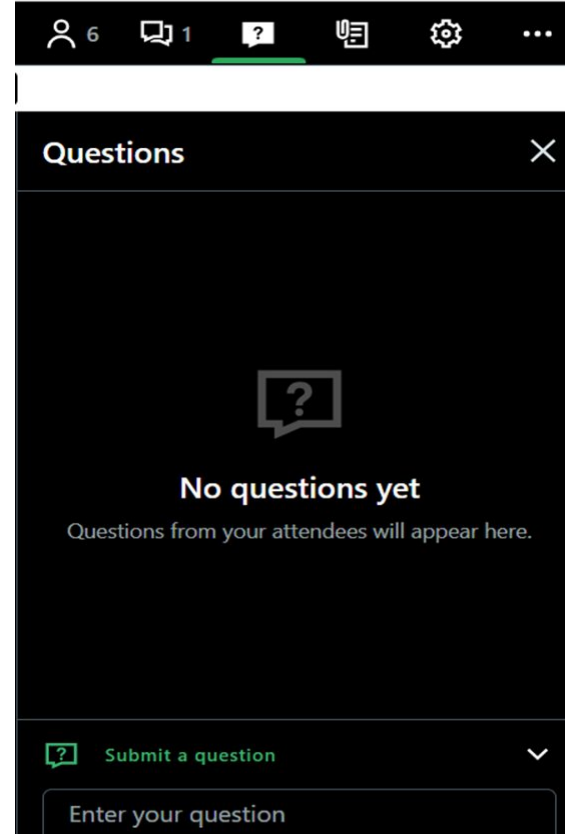


Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) Permittee Meeting - Phase 2

Water Quality Division
July 8, 2026
11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Webinar Orientation

- Muted
- Not Recording
- Questions



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of Purpose of AWQS Rule and Phases
- Process Overview
 - Baseline Monitoring Requirements
 - Permit Amendment Requirements
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Online Resources and Contacts
- Questions



Purpose of this webinar

- Explain AWQS Rule requirements to permittees holding individual Aquifer Protection Program (APP) Permits
- Reminders for Phase 2 permittees on required action and upcoming deadlines
- Refresher from prior webinars - no new information



Purpose of the AWQS Rule

- Effective August 4, 2025
- Created or adjusted 7 AWQS
- All AWQS match drinking water MCLs
 - ALL aquifers in Arizona are considered drinking water sources
- ALL APP Permittees must take action to be compliant with the rule



Review of New or Adjusted AWQS

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

¹ 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)

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



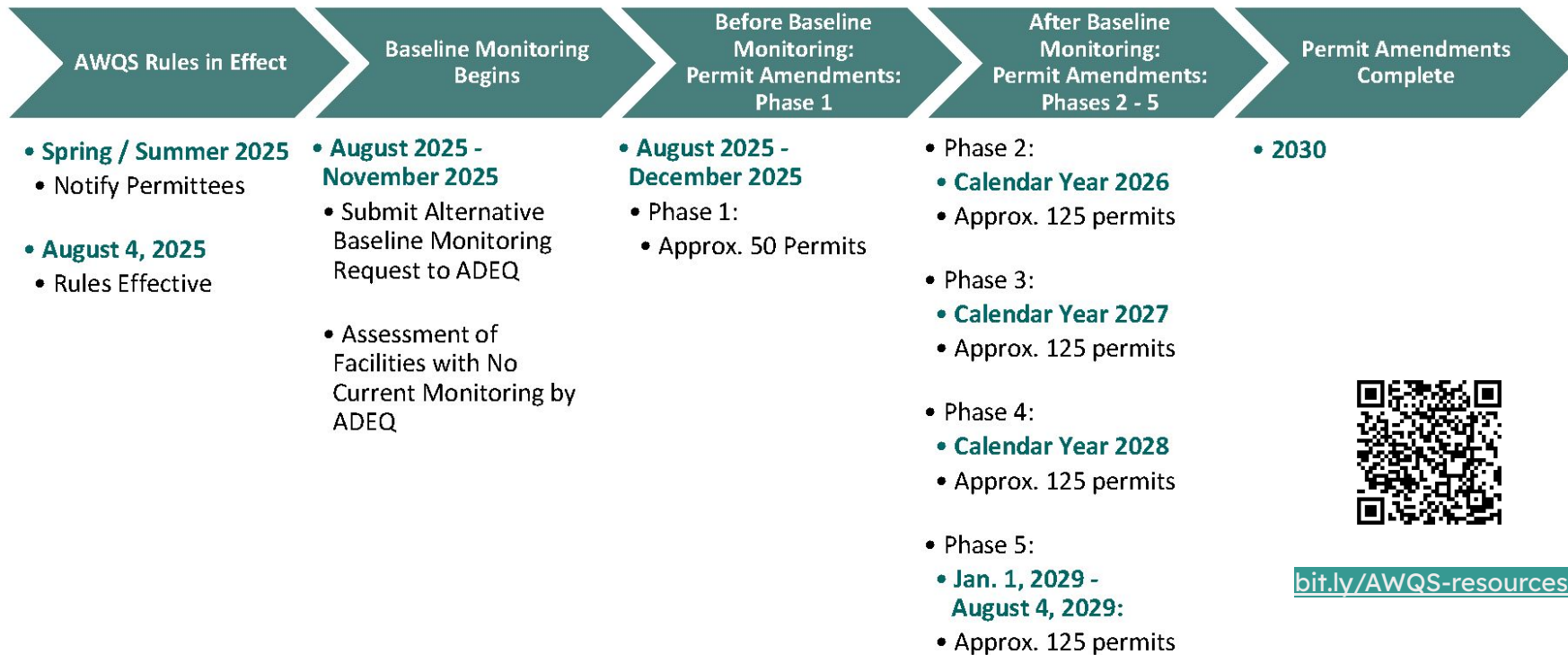
How will my APP permit be affected?

- The implementation rule requires individual APP permittees to take action of some kind
- Detailed in the implementation rule - Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) [R18-9-A215](#)
- Most common requirements:
 - Complete baseline monitoring for all parameters (some exceptions)
 - Compile data into a report with suggested limits
 - Submit a permit amendment application



Individual APP Permit Amendment Schedule

Approx. ~500 Permits



Process Overview

Baseline Monitoring

Permittees perform baseline monitoring for 7 new or adjusted parameters at discharge and groundwater monitoring locations in your APP.

Develop the Baseline Monitoring Report

Upon completion of baseline monitoring, permittees will develop the baseline monitoring report and propose Discharge Limits (DLs) and Aquifer Quality Limits (AQLs) based on the baseline monitoring results.

Submit APP Amendment Application

Permittees will submit the baseline monitoring report during their assigned amendment phase as part of an administratively complete APP amendment application.

ADEQ recommends that a pre-application meeting is scheduled prior to submission.

ADEQ will initiate the Amendment Process

ADEQ will initiate the amendment process to incorporate the new or adjusted AWQS.

Baseline Monitoring

Implementation Rule: R18-9-A215(C) – *Persons with issued individual permits as of a new or adjusted AWQS effective date shall begin Baseline Monitoring, pursuant to subsection (E) below, for a new or adjusted AWQS within three months of effective date of August 4, 2025.*

- Unless:
 - The permit has no ongoing monitoring requirements,
 - The permittee has not begun ongoing monitoring,
 - The permittee has submitted, and ADEQ has approved, an Unlikely to be Present in the Discharge Demonstration (UPDD) and/or an Alternative Baseline Monitoring Request (ABMR)
 - **Unless you received an approved UPDD and/or AMBR, baseline monitoring should have begun by Nov. 4, 2025 for all parameters**

Baseline Monitoring Requirements

- No discharge or groundwater monitoring (Phase 1)
 - Incorporate into contingency monitoring or waived through UPDD
- Only discharge monitoring (Phase 2-3)
 - One year, 12 monthly samples, at permitted monitoring location
- Only groundwater monitoring (Phase 2-3)
 - Two years, 8 quarterly samples, at permitted monitoring location
- Both discharge and groundwater monitoring (Phase 4-5)
 - 12 monthly discharge samples, 8 quarterly groundwater samples

Can use prior collected samples/monitoring in accordance with A215(E)(3)

What To Do During Baseline Monitoring

During the Baseline Monitoring period:

- Continue monitoring according to your current permit - add the additional parameters necessary for completing baseline monitoring requirements
- HOLD all of your data - it will be included in the Baseline Monitoring Report
 - There are NO SMRFs for baseline monitoring data
- If you have an exceedance of any of the new/adjusted AWQS - send a notification to awqs@azdeq.gov
 - You do not need to submit contingency reports unless you exceed your currently permitted limits
- Ensure your laboratory's reporting limit is less than the new/adjusted standard
 - We must be able to verify the sample result - reporting limit must not be greater than 80% of the AWQS

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Develop the Baseline Monitoring Report

- Gather all of your monitoring data - Can use prior collected samples/monitoring in accordance with A215(E)(3)
- Prepare your Baseline Monitoring Report
 - Data analysis - may choose to propose limits
 - ADEQ will calculate limits if none are proposed
 - If limits are proposed: include Alert Level (AL), Discharge Limit (DL), and Aquifer Quality Limit (AQL) as appropriate
 - Recommended to be sealed by a professional
 - Include all lab reports
 - Sample template available - see Resources

Permit Amendment Requirements

What to submit:

- Baseline Monitoring Report
- Permit Amendment Application

Submit during the time range specified in the Permit Amendment Schedule (your assigned Phase)

- Department reviews, processes and determines whether new Alert Levels, Discharge Limits or Aquifer Quality Limits are necessary for the new or adjusted AWQS

Pre-application meeting is suggested prior to submission

Submit all documents to groundwaterpermits@azdeq.gov



APP Permit Amendment Process

- Application received via groundwaterpermits@azdeq.gov
- Staff assigned: Project Manager, Engineer, Hydrogeologist
- Tribal Notification, Community Engagement as necessary
- Administratively Complete Review
- Substantive Review
- Permit Drafting
 - Internal and External reviews
 - Notice as required
- Financial Assurance documents received/approved
- Permit granted - final bill generated
- Bill is paid - permit is issued



How much will my permit amendment cost?

- We bill hourly - Current hourly rate is \$180, billed separately from the annual fee
- Time it takes to review application, baseline monitoring report, calculate or verify new/adjusted limits
 - For older permits:
 - Update to meet current legal requirements - boilerplate language, etc
 - Closure cost estimate and financial assurance updates - cost estimates must be sealed
- Cost will not exceed the legal maximum set in rule



Pre-Application Meeting

If you are in Phase 2 and have not yet begun monitoring, ADEQ recommends scheduling a Pre-Application meeting to discuss the scheduled amendment as soon as possible.

Please fill out and submit a Pre-Application online form:

bit.ly/425fskb



Especially those permits in Phase 2

- Phase 2 Amendment Submission Range:
 - August 2026 through Dec. 31, 2026

ADEQ recommends a Pre-Application meeting prior to amendment submission - understanding requirements saves time during review



Frequently Asked Questions



azdeq.gov/awqs-faqs



Amendment Phases Location

— ACTIVE RULEMAKING

Resources | Aquifer Water Quality Standards Update

Revised On: Jun. 25th, 2025 - 01:40 pm

Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) Update Rulemaking Page | [View >](#)

- Fact Sheet | [View >](#)

Draft Rule

- Draft AWQS Rule | [View >](#)
- Draft AWQS Implementation Plan | [View >](#)

Contact Us



— NEW OR ADJUSTED

AWQS Permit Amendment Submission Schedule

- Phase 1 >
- Phase 2 >
- Phase 3 >
- Phase 4 >
- Phase 5 >



bit.ly/AWQS-resources

AWQS Guidance Documents

Webpage:

<https://azdeq.gov/rulemaking/awqs-update/resources>

Rule: Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A215

New or Adjusted AWQS Baseline Monitoring Report Template

<https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/awqs/BaselineMonitoringReportTemplate.pdf>

Unlikely to be Present in Discharge Demonstration (UPDD)

https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/awqs/u2bpd_demonstration.pdf

Alternative Baseline Monitoring Request

https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/awqs/alt_baseline_monitoring_req.pdf

New AWQS Rule Flow Chart Decision Tree

https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/awqs/awqs_flowchart.pdf
bit.ly/AWQS-resources



Questions?

Email us: awqs@azdeq.gov

