

## Water Quality Division: Onsite Wastewater Operations and Maintenance TWG Meeting 4: September 15, 2021      10:00 am - Noon

### Members in Attendance:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Bartholomew, CHAIR, Bartholomew Wastewater Services, Inc.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Brian Bishop, AZ Septic Pros<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas Disbrow, CO-CHAIR, AZ Wastewater Services, LLC<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheryl Ervin, Infiltrator Water Technologies<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Heidrich, Mogollon RV Park & AZARVC<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jim Huchel, City of Flagstaff<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Ivers, ADEQ<br><input type="checkbox"/> Brian Knisley, Maricopa County | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Long, First American Septic Service<br><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Lye, Freeport - McMoRan Bagdad, Inc<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Morgan, ADEQ<br><input type="checkbox"/> Craig Payne, Payne home services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Howard Ruble, Paradise septic, A-American septic, Coopers septic<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Stidham, EZ TREAT, INC<br><input type="checkbox"/> Alfredo Zapata, Macho Contracting<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theresa Gunn, ADEQ Project Manager |
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Agenda (Est Time)	Lead	Overview	NOTES
<b>Previous Meeting Notes</b>	David	Any changes or comments on the notes?	No discussion or changes.
<b>Review Responses to Homework</b>	David	Review the ideal future states created by group members	<p>The team reviewed the statements provided by the team members.</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep permit fees low not to be overly burdensome and high enough for people to think about being in compliance.</li> <li>Realtors' involvement is difficult during the transfer of owner. Need to think more clearly how to do this. Would help if there was database on the condition. Need to clarify who can inspect the system, may need to be someone other than the operator.</li> <li>Contractors want to install quickly and move on and have limited responsibility.</li> <li>Need training for regulators and have consistency between reviewers.</li> <li>Consider eliminating the transfer of owner inspection in lieu of a proper O&amp;M program with renewable permit.</li> <li>2 issues – notice of transfer and ongoing operations and maintenance</li> <li>Require pre-construction meeting with the option for the regulator to participate if possible</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations agreement before issuing occupancy</li> <li>• Alternative systems are attached to the deed of the property</li> <li>• Add in operator requirements which requires notice to department if contract not renewed</li> <li>• Important to work with realtors' on providing education; they have a duty to ensure their clients are protected – provide a reference guide</li> <li>• New technology – combined treatment and drain systems</li> <li>• ADEQ issues a discharge permit to a specific person; when a home is sold. the discharge permit is transferred to the new owner.</li> <li>• The quality of our water is as important as the air we breathe. Therefore, we can draw parallels between this program and automobile registration and testing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Can an O&amp;M program replace the NOT program?</b> (Potentially yes, depends on how the O&amp;M program for the conventional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an operator program to eliminate the inspection program</li> <li>• Would need to deal the gap</li> <li>• When selling have to comply with the operator program instead of the inspection</li> <li>• If inspected and reported within 8 months OK for sell if not have to have an inspector</li> <li>• Question? Does it include pumping of the tank? Should new owner have to pump previous owner's waste? Some systems are getting over pumped. Operator makes the call on whether it should be pumped based on accumulation.</li> <li>• Reduction of paperwork and burden at time of sale</li> <li>• Different level of requirements for operators for the type of system based on average use. (Frequency may be different for conventional and alternative systems.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 years too often – 5 years too long (3-5 years for conventional)</li> <li>○ More frequent with an alternative system that require filter cleaning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What is the burden being added to the homeowners? A government regulation to a private homeowner.</li> <li>• Conventional systems should have bi-annual inspection to protect the environment and their health of the system backing up into the home.</li> <li>• Would still need to have an ADEQ compliance package</li> </ul>
<b>Our Ideal Future</b>	All	Determine if there is agreement for a future state for	<p><b>Engineer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate owner on system</li> <li>• Chooses installer specific to system and manufacturer</li> <li>• Checks work periodically and final</li> </ul>

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		<p>which the team can determine what rules would be needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacts manufacturer</li> </ul> <p><b>Manufacturer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacts local distributor</li> <li>• Gives list of qualified providers to owner and follows up with education</li> </ul> <p><b>DEQ/Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance packet to owner – to be completed and returned by owner               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include R18-9-A313</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Permit issuance contingent on at inception and annual renewal (with reporting)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewal timeframes based on the type of system and/or environmental impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintains a database of all systems including reports, operator, etc. for tracking and enforcement</li> <li>• All fees to support the onsite program</li> <li>• Training programs for engineers, operators, installers, inspectors</li> <li>• Enforcement program to regulate bad players</li> <li>• A program that creates growth in the workforce (work in schools similar to STEM fest)</li> <li>• Use technical bulletins or manuals to provide some flexibility to change without changing rules with a technical review committee to oversee the updates to the manual</li> <li>• Review the ROI inspections</li> <li>• Prepare an owner responsibility manual</li> <li>• Maintain a searchable database of inspectors</li> </ul> <p><b>Annual Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the service provider (operator) of record</li> <li>• Service provider operates much like requirements R18-5-104 (single family homeowner current exempted)</li> </ul> <p><b>Property Transfer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realtor Board educates buyer/seller agents on all onsite procedures, practices, basics of operation in ADEQ approved training</li> <li>• Knowledge imparted to the buyer/seller through the agents               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include R18-9-A313</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Point of sale inspection would be given to regulator (ROI)</li> <li>• Need clarity on functional with concerns, not functional and functional</li> <li>• Should use a certified inspector</li> </ul>

# Meeting Agenda/Summary

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can the seller operator conduct the inspection? Or is this a conflict of interest?</li> </ul> <p><b>Operator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner to retain services of a certified operator for the alternative system</li> <li>• Operator retained commiserate to the system itself</li> <li>• State certification program for operators (1-4 levels of certification)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Standard</li> <li>○ ATUs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operator makes annual report including laboratory sample results (similar to 4.01 recordkeeping and operations)</li> <li>• DEQ testing like the ABC at Gateway Community College</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	All		
<b>Adjourn</b>	Chair		Next Meeting: October 20, 2021

## Action Plan:

Task	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status
ADEQ explore hiring contractor for random sampling of effluent of septic and alternative to check effluent; check house specs (check list) to see if appropriately sized; ADEQ inspector accompany the contractor (will have special authority under law); alt systems may need BOD, TKN samples (influent sample); Nitrate sample at drinking water (e-coli) if bored or shallow surface well;	ADEQ (Assigned to Ray Morgan)		Underway

# Meeting Agenda/Summary

Task	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status
Talk to Oregon about their testing program	Sheryl		
Review R18-9-A313B for completeness and accuracies	TWG Members	Before next meeting	
Discuss the possibility of a day long (or 2-day) work session. Or joint meetings such as (PPL and O&M)	Theresa		