

Status Report Outline: Approach to Operations and Maintenance

Work Group: Operations and Maintenance

Date: January 18, 2022

Problem:

- A313 requires homeowners to maintain their system in proper working order but the rules do include any monitoring and/or enforcement of this section. Homeowners typically “flush and forget.” They are not aware of the maintenance requirements to assure their system is working properly. Lack of O&M results in a risk to public health and the environment.
- A316: The Notice of Transfer program has limitations and lacks oversight and rigor. There is no communication or sharing of information with the new owner. The regulatory agency does not receive a copy of the inspection report.

Solution:

Include an O&M program with the following key elements into the phase 2 rule:

- Renewable operating permits requiring an inspection to renew
- Statewide database of all permitted systems and inspection reports
- Require homeowners have a service provider contract as part of permit

Implementation:

The following is the current status of a potential implementation plan:

- All new conventional systems will be required to renew their operating permit every 3 years
- ATUs (yet to be defined) will be required to have annual renewals and inspections.
- To obtain renewed permit, owner or their service provider would submit the inspection report and documentation of any maintenance or repair during the previous permit period to the regulator. (Requirements of the inspection are yet to be determined)
- At time of sale, no inspection will be required unless the permit is 2 or more years old. (Name on permit will still need to be transferred.)
- The inspection report provided for permit renewal could result in a NOV (flow exceeding design capacity, etc.)
- Still to be determined:
 - What happens if permit not renewed
 - What happens if inspection doesn't occur at time of sale
 - What happens if no service provider contract

Obstacles:

- How to transition existing systems into the renewable permit program. Potentially at time of sale.
- Arizona's history of not adding regulatory burdens to individual homeowners.

Alignment:

Training and Certification: A successful O&M will be dependent on having a certification program to ensure the service providers know how to inspect and provide maintenance for the systems. The state will also need a program to managed the certifications of the “bad actors.”