

CHARTER

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Technical Work Group



ADEQ is establishing technical work groups to research and provide recommendations on specific issues to improve the onsite wastewater treatment facility permitting program in accordance with the ADEQ mission and vision.

ADEQ Mission

Our mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona.

ADEQ Vision

Our vision is to be the No. 1 state in the nation in:

- balanced, leading-edge environmental protection through
- technical and operational excellence, and
- radical simplicity for customers and staff.

Work Group	Type 1.09 Facilities	Chair	Maher Hazine
Date	June 9, 2021	Version	#2

Objective	<p>Some wastewater treatment plants and all onsite wastewater treatment facilities that were operational prior to 1/01/2001 were moved to a Type 1.09 operational permit. This work group is charged with determining the environmental impact of these facilities and making recommendations on how to upgrade the facilities to be compliant. This group will also consider alternatives for how funding assistance can be provided to homeowners who are required to upgrade their system.</p> <p>List of specific issues and questions to consider is attached.</p>
Major Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the draft list of assigned issues and prepare prioritized final list of issues to be discussed (<i>Prioritization Worksheet</i>: http://azdeq.gov/onsitewastewater)• Monthly status updates to the Onsite Wastewater Advisory Committee (OWAC)• Report out and seek additional input at stakeholder meetings• Conduct peer review of other States' programs• Collect, review existing studies and research• Determine if new research is needed and create plan to obtain the research• Review and incorporate input from stakeholders/customers/counties• Once the group has completed the deliverables, it will be disbanded

Deliverable: Issue Paper(s)	<p>The group will prepare a white paper to provide background and explanation of each recommendation. The paper should include the following. <i>(Issue Paper Outline: https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/rulemaking/onsite/twg_wp.pdf)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate current program ● Fully list, explain, and discuss the problems and identified gaps in the current program ● Provide analysis and data to support why the issues discussed are in fact a problem for stakeholders, including the regulated public ● Fully list, explain and discuss alternatives considered and the final recommendation to resolve the issue ● Identify issues or opportunities that reflect a future state approach that requires significant research, such as those issues that may intersect with a more flexible future state approach to be analyzed in tandem by the Ideal Future State Exploration Work Group
Member Role	
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TWG is a voluntary working group, which will make recommendations to the OWAC and ADEQ ● Neither the group nor individual members will make decisions on behalf of ADEQ
Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members are expected to comport themselves in a professional manner at all times (i.e., treat each other with mutual courtesy, respect and dignity) ● It is expected that members will actively participate in good faith ● If either the ADEQ Water Quality Director or the chair are concerned about the commitment, behavior, or performance of a workgroup member, the two shall consult to determine appropriate corrective action, if any, that may be taken. Such action may require removal and replacement of the member
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members may withdraw at any time ● Members represent their affiliations and bring their special expertise to the discussions ● Full participation is needed to ensure a variety of viewpoints are voiced ● Members who are unable to participate on a consistent basis may be replaced upon consultation between the Director and the Chair
Responsibilities	
Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a work group timeline ● Select member to take meeting notes ● Move the discussion forward to keep the agenda moving forward on time ● Ensure that the work group remains productive and encourage participation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that all sides of an issue are explored, including hidden or unpopular aspects ● Assist the work group in reaching consensus and articulating issues where consensus is not possible ● Assist work group members in preparing the deliverables ● Report monthly progress to OWAC or upon request from the Director ● Ensure that workgroup deadlines are met, and the final report is delivered to ADEQ on schedule
ADEQ Unit Manager	<p>Matt Ivers: ivers.matthew@azdeq.gov; 602-771-6723 Ground Water Protection General Permits & Water Reuse Unit Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical support and resources as needed
ADEQ Project Manager	<p>Theresa Gunn, gunn.theresa@azdeq.gov; 602-478-0580 Assist the chair and members, as needed, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scheduling meetings ● Preparing agendas ● Posting reports on website ● Facilitating meetings ● Resolving issues
Legal Specialist	<p>Heidi Welborn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide legal analysis as needed and appropriate ● If legal analysis assistance is needed, contact the onsite unit manager, Matt Ivers
Public Information Officer	<p>Caroline Oppleman: oppleman.caroline@azdeq.gov; 602-540-8072</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TWG chair and members may refer any media requests to ADEQ’s Public Information Officer ● Members contacted by the media or any organization to answer questions or asked to speak at an event will not present themselves as representing ADEQ or the work group in any way ● The chair is the designated spokesperson for the work group for purposes of public meetings and ADEQ management meetings
Meetings	
Meeting Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Format to be determined by the members ● ADEQ to provide virtual meeting platform ● TWG meetings are working meetings and will not include an open call to the public ● Meeting dates will be shared only with work group members ● TWG agendas and meeting notes will be posted on the ADEQ website

	<i>NOTE: Stakeholder meetings will be held periodically to provide non-members an opportunity to provide input</i>
Meeting Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will establish a meeting schedule sufficient to complete the objectives by the stated deadline
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWGs will operate on a consensus basis • If a consensus cannot be reached, to move forward, a decision will be made by a majority of the members present • Dissenting voters may provide a written explanation of the reasons for disagreement to be included in the meeting notes and issue paper

Specific Issues and Questions

- Evaluate the environmental impact of the current 1.09 permitted facilities.
 - What data is needed to identify or prove whether these facilities are causing groundwater or health problems?
 - How could ADEQ collect/obtain the data to assess this?
 - How would ADEQ identify where Type 1.09 permitted facilities are located?
 - What would be issues in collecting data?
 - Who could assist in collection of data?
 - Is there existing comparative data to assist in assessing collected onsite data?
 - How should the data be evaluated?
- Recommend whether ADEQ should establish a process to assess and modernize nonconforming Type 1.09 permitted facilities.
 - Are other political subdivisions other than the state better equipped to deal with these issues at a local level?
 - What would be the costs and impacts to customers?
 - How would one identify whether a facility is out of compliance and how to bring them back into compliance?
 - What rule modifications would be needed?
 - How could 1.09 system owners be incentivised to connect to nearby collection systems?
 - What problems or issues need to be overcome to update the systems?
 - Hardship process for low income residents
 - How can these facilities be incorporated into a Type 4 permit?