Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) Rulemaking Update

Tribal Listening Session

Groundwater Protection Section Water Quality Division September 11, 2023





Welcome





Len Drago
Tribal Liaison & Ombudsman
Office of Intergovernmental &
Community Affairs



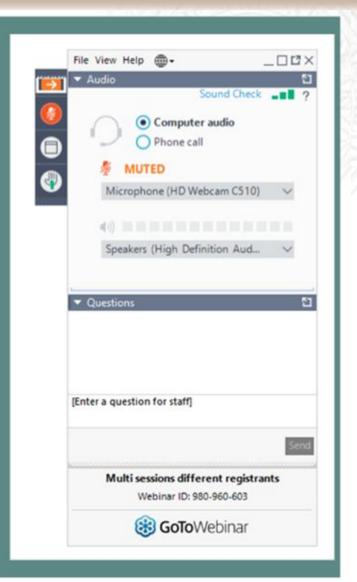
Webinar Orientation

Muted

Not Recording

Questions?

Answers



AWQS Team Members











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Jon Rezabek DEQ Water Quality Division Water Quality Division

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Agenda





- Introductions
- What are Aquifer Water Quality Standards?
- What standards need updating?
- Why is ADEQ doing this now?
- Things to know about AWQS
- Project Rulemaking Timeline
- Online Resources
- Open Discussion

Introductions







Trevor Baggiore

Division Director

Water Quality Division

Randy Matas

Deputy Director

Water Quality Division

Aquifer Water Quality Standards

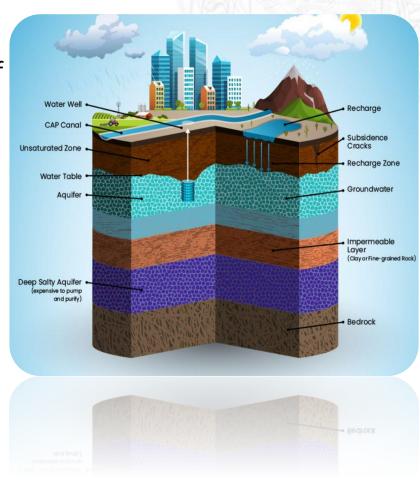


What are AWQSs?

 maximum contaminant levels, established for aquifers in the state of Arizona for the protection of drinking water usage and public health.

How are AWQSs used?

- Aquifer Protection Permits
- Remediation Programs
 - WQARF
 - VRP
- Underground Storage Tanks



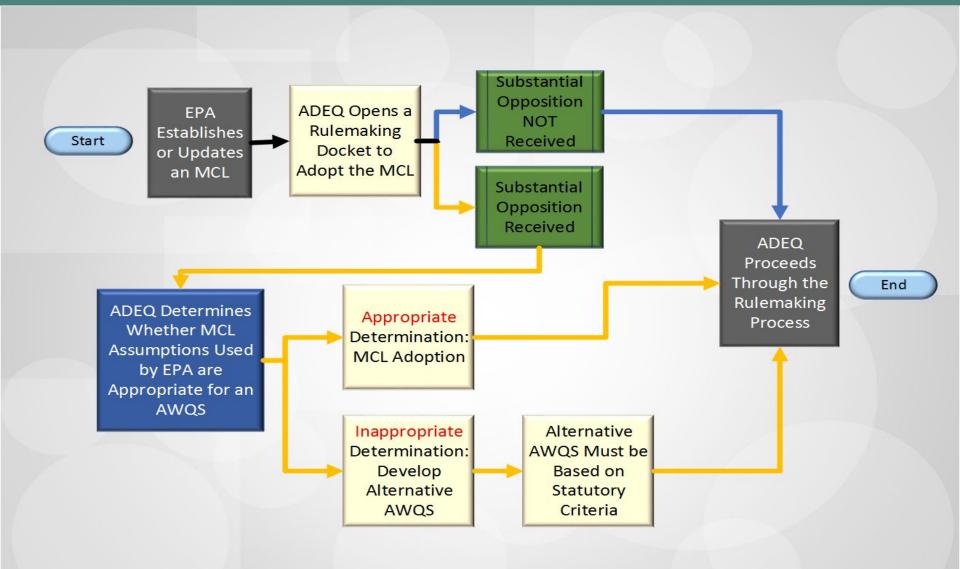
What Standards need to be updated?



Pollutant	AWQS	MCL
Arsenic	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L
Bromate	None	0.01 mg/L
Chlorite	None	1 mg/L
Haloacetic Acids	None	0.05 mg/L
Microbiological Contaminants	A.A.C. R18-11- 406(F)	40 CFR 141.63(C)
Total Trihalomethanes	0.1 mg/L	0.08 mg/L
Uranium	None	30 μg/L

A.R.S. § 49-223 (A) & (B) AWQS Process





Why is ADEQ doing this now?





Protect Public Health

- All AZ aquifers protected for drinking water use
- Groundwater used as a drinking water source by municipalities and private well owners
- Legal Requirement
 - A.R.S. § 49-223(A)
- Audit Finding

Things to know about AWQS



- A.R.S. § 49-243(B)(3)

 No pollution discharged will further degrade an aquifer at Point of Compliance (POC) well if the aquifer exceeds the AWQS

Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Report

 8 or more rounds of samples showing natural background above the AWQS

A.A.C. R18-9-A205(C)(2)

 Aquifer Quality Limit (AQL) set higher than AWQS if natural background above AWQS



AWQS Rulemaking: Critical Path



Project Initiation

Launch Communication

High-Level Rule Components

- Project Mangement Plan
- Initial Research & Analysis
- Communications Plan
- •Rulemaking Schedule
- October, 2022

- Informal Stakeholder Meetings
- Standard Work Methodology
- MCL Assumptions
- Notice of Docket Opens
- March, 2023

- Voice of the Customer on Standard Work
- Determine appropriateness of MCLs as AWQS
- Begin drafting rule components
- August, 2023

Next Steps:

Draft
Preamble
and Rule

File NPRM

Formal Stakeholder Process Rule is Final and Effective

- August-November 2023
- December 2023
- January-February 2024
- April-June 2024

AWQS Rulemaking Online



Rulemaking Webpage

https://old.azdeq.gov/node/9096



Rulemaking Fact Sheet

https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/rulemaking/awqs/fs.pdf

Rulemaking Resources

https://old.azdeq.gov/node/9545

Rulemaking Notice of Docket Opening

- 29 A.A.R. 1478
 - https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2023/26/contents.pdf#page=56

Microbiological Contaminants



. RTCR

- routine sampling
 - E.coli & Total Coliform
- repeat sampling:
 - E.coli & Total Coliform
- RTCR in a PWS Setting



• How does this apply in non-PWS settings?





Open Discussion

Questions? AWQS

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