

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A list of current WQARF sites, along with pertinent descriptions of locations, funds set aside, and environmental endangerment involved, is available from DEQ. For additional information, please contact:

- WQARF Program Manager257-6841
- Emergency Response
Section Manager257-2338
- Assistant Director/Waste
Programs257-2318
- DEQ Ombudsman257-2297
- DEQ Public Information
Officer257-6940

TO REPORT HAZARDOUS SPILLS

24-Hour Hotline —

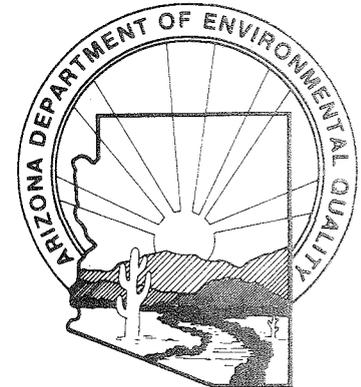
- Hazardous Materials Spills257-2330
- Hazardous Waste Complaints . . 392-4052
- Hazardous Waste Informational
Assistance257-2211

DEQ OFFICE LOCATIONS

PHOENIX
Main Office
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
(602) 257-2300

TUCSON
Southern Regional Office
4040 East 29th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85711
(602) 628-5321

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



WQARF PROGRAM
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund
INFORMATION GUIDE

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WHAT IS WQARF?

The Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) was created in 1986 as part of Arizona's Environmental Quality Act. The act authorizes \$5 million in legislative funds for WQARF purposes each year, up to a fund maximum of \$25 million. WQARF monies are used to protect the waters of our state against hazardous substances, and may be utilized in conjunction with federal funds. Ultimately, WQARF is designed to protect Arizona's natural environment and the health and welfare of its citizens.

ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY WQARF

• Statewide Water Quality Monitoring

DEQ's Office of water Quality monitors the chemical and physical characteristics of Arizona's surface water and groundwater, watching for signs of degradation.

• Health Effects Studies

DEQ funds health and risk assessment studies of substances which might threaten our water supplies and health. Research in this area is conducted through an agreement with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

• Remedial Actions

"Remedial actions" are taken to minimize damage to our water supplies. They may include monitoring or disposing of hazardous substances which present a threat, or which already have caused damage. These actions can include providing alternate drinking water supplies for citizens. "Immediate actions" are taken to avert imminent danger to public health, welfare or the natural environment, while "long-term remedial actions" are prioritized, as described below.

ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST

Each year, DEQ develops a list of environmentally threatened sites in Arizona which qualify for WQARF monies. Funds are used at those sites to mitigate existing damage or to prevent further damage which may threaten our water supplies. Sites are selected on a priority basis through a process which begins annually on July 1. Sites are selected according to the degree of risk to the environment, non-WQARF funding available from other sources, and a host of technical factors. DEQ draws up a "priority list," then, based upon this list, sets aside specific funds for each site which are adequate to defray the cost of remedial actions. Before the list becomes official, public comment is invited and made a part of final considerations.

THE ROLE OF DEQ CONTRACTORS

When responsible parties cannot be identified, or refuse to assist with remediation, DEQ hires contractors to perform the work. Contractors may be needed in a wide variety of areas, from emergency clean-up, sampling and chemical analysis to interpretation of aerial photographs and assessment of remedial alternatives; from door-to-door interviews and soil excavation to record searches and construction/operation of water contamination treatment facilities.

ENFORCEMENT UNDER WQARF

DEQ is required to show there has been a release or threat of a release of a hazardous substance from a facility which may adversely affect waters of the state. Facilities with known releases are notified and encouraged to initiate voluntary cleanup actions. If they fail to perform remedial actions after being ordered, DEQ will conduct the work, then seek cost recovery and impose applicable penalties. The fund will be used to initiate remedial actions where those responsible for the contamination cannot be identified.