

How can I obtain more information?

Documents referenced in this brochure, as well as other guidance materials intended to help small communities with environmental compliance, are available on ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Web page: azdeq.gov/function/compliance/smallcomm.html. This page will continue to be updated as materials and information become available.



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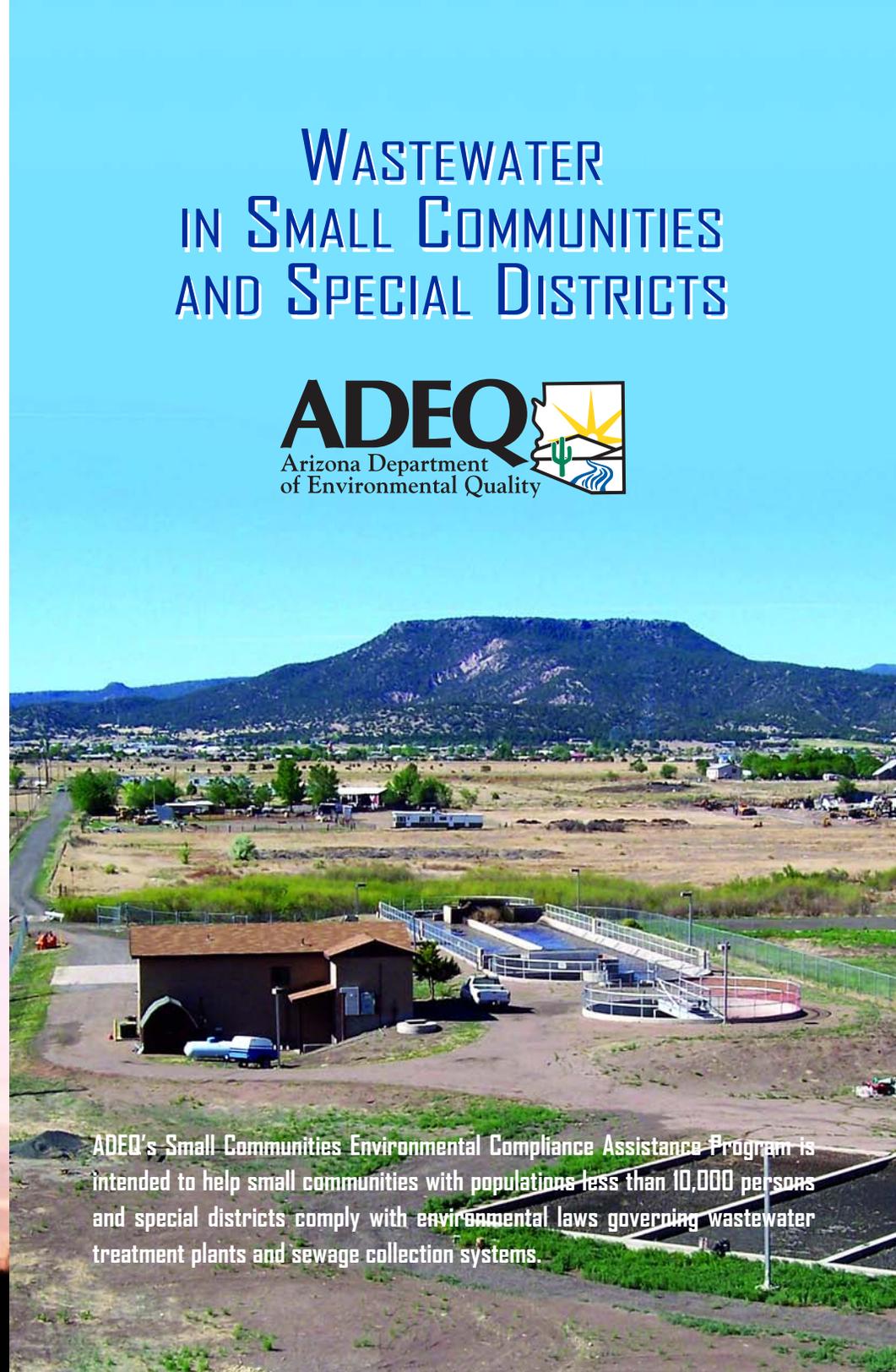
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WASTEWATER IN SMALL COMMUNITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS



ADEQ's Small Communities Environmental Compliance Assistance Program is intended to help small communities with populations less than 10,000 persons and special districts comply with environmental laws governing wastewater treatment plants and sewage collection systems.

Most small communities in Arizona provide sewer services to their residents, and are subject to certain state and federal laws. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality regulates wastewater systems through several environmental protection programs described in this brochure.

How does the ADEQ help small communities comply with wastewater collection, treatment and discharge requirements?

ADEQ offers regularly scheduled wastewater and drinking water workshops to help owners and operators. Notification of these events is available on ADEQ's Web site. The agency's rural representatives, called "community liaisons," are able to assist Arizona's rural communities.

What are the environmental permitting requirements for wastewater treatment plants?*

Arizona's Water Pollution Control rules are found in Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) Title 18, Chapter 9, and can be downloaded at www.azsos.gov.

Aquifer Protection Permit

An Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) must be in place to operate a wastewater treatment plant. APP amendments are required for corrections or changes to the permit.

Reclaimed Water Permit

Reclaimed water permits are required for reuse of treated effluent and are normally obtained by an end user of the water. A facility's APP must specify the class of effluent generated by a facility (e.g., Class A, B or C) and the associated effluent sampling requirements for the reuse activities. An APP amendment may be necessary for this purpose.

Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit

An AZDPES permit is required prior to any discharges to surface water, including dry washes.

AZPDES Stormwater Permits and Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP)

Coverage under a stormwater general permit must be obtained for wastewater treatment plants with design flow of one million gallons per day or more, and for any construction projects which will disturb at least one acre of land.

208 Water Quality Management Plan

A consistency review is required for new facilities, AZPDES permits, and certain modifications.

Sewage Sludge (a.k.a. Biosolids)

Treatment, storage and disposal requirements will be included in an APP or an AZPDES discharge permit.

Air Quality Permit

Electrical generators (for treatment plants, lift stations, or other purposes) which are equal to or greater than 325 brake horsepower need an Air Quality Permit.

*Consult with ADEQ for additional permitting requirements, based on site-specific conditions.

What are the permitting requirements for wastewater collection systems, including lift stations?*

Construction Authorization and Discharge Authorization

Approvals must be obtained for new collection systems or expansion of existing collection systems involving new construction. ADEQ first reviews the design for a new sewage collection system. When a Construction Authorization is issued, construction may begin. After construction is complete, a Discharge Authorization must be applied for and obtained prior to use of the new system/expansion.

Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) General Permit

ADEQ encourages sewer providers to apply for general permit coverage to manage, operate and maintain a sewage collection system under the terms of a CMOM plan. This will help prevent sanitary sewer overflows and reduce the level of enforcement when spills and leaks occur from collection systems.

What other requirements apply to wastewater collection, treatment and discharge?

Owners and operators must read and understand permit terms and conditions. Common violations include failure to:

- notify ADEQ of facility changes, including change in ownership or contact information, and apply for permit amendments as applicable;
- comply with contingency procedures following exceedance of a permit limit;
- monitor and report (see below for more detail);
- require businesses to comply with pre-treatment ordinances;
- adhere to a permit compliance schedule (as applicable);
- keep systems in proper operating condition according to an operation and maintenance manual;
- obtain approval for wastewater collection extensions prior to construction and operation.

How can small communities assure compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements?

Complete and accurate monitoring results must be submitted to ADEQ at a frequency specified in the permit. ADEQ supplies self-monitoring reporting forms (SMRFs) that must be used for APP reporting. Reporting forms for AZDPES permits are called discharge monitoring report forms (DMRs). These forms are prepared by ADEQ for each permit. Steps owners and operators can take to avoid common monitoring and reporting violations include:

- read and understand the permit monitoring and reporting requirements;
- carefully review the permit monitoring tables, including the footnotes;
- keep a detailed log book of inspection and monitoring activities;
- plan ahead for sampling events to ensure:
 - 1) analytical methods will meet the permit requirements,
 - 2) detection limits are below permit limits, and
 - 3) samples will be properly collected and preserved;
- sample from the correct points, as specified in the permit;
- purge groundwater monitoring wells according to permit specifications;
- track sludge volume, quality and disposal destinations, and submit annual report forms by February 19 of each year;
- convert data to the proper units (as necessary) for comparison with permit limits.