

From: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality <AZDEQ@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:20 AM
To: watereuseaz@cox.net
Subject: Direct Potable Reuse of Recycled Water □ HB2129 Update to Stakeholders



Water Quality Division

Dear Stakeholders,

Pursuant to pending legislation (House Bill 2129), we are in the early planning stages to begin rule modification to provide a clear permitting process and regulatory standards for direct potable reuse (DPR) of reclaimed water.

DPR is the beneficial reuse of advanced ultra-treated reclaimed water for potable purposes without an environmental buffer. For example, stormwater and wastewater may be conveyed to a municipal wastewater treatment plant for treatment to reclaimed water standards, and then further treated to protective drinking water levels for distribution as potable water.

House Bill 2129 would direct us to adopt all rules necessary to implement a DPR program that would allow water utilities to distribute treated reclaimed water for potable uses on a broad scale.

This project will resume stakeholder work that started prior to 2017, when ADEQ modified rules to remove the moratorium on direct use of reclaimed water for potable use. In that rulemaking, we also established a rule that allowed utilities to investigate and innovate solutions for alleviating water supply challenges. However, the 2017 DPR rule was intended as an interim rule.

Since that time, we received a work group report detailing various areas needing standards established. Further, interest in employing DPR as a water supply solution has increased. Given this interest and the pending bill, we plan to revise DPR rules to better address minimum performance requirements, source control, design elements to prevent contamination of the water supply, operator qualifications, technical, managerial, and financial requirements, uniform terminology, and other issues. A revised rule will more sufficiently meet the needs of entities planning to build DPR facilities, and assure the public that our program is legally and technically protective of public health and the environment.

We intend to engage in an extensive collaborative process with industry experts, Arizona residents, businesses, and community leaders to define Arizona's DPR program. The first public stakeholder meeting will likely be scheduled for this summer.

Subscribing to our general “Water Quality Division Rulemaking” email list is recommended to receive the quickest and most updated information regarding the development of a DPR program | [Subscribe to Receive WQD Rulemaking Updates >](#)

The DPR team will also establish a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that will include subject matter experts and industry leaders. This TAG will advise ADEQ on specific topics related to improving the DPR program. If you have background knowledge in DPR and related topics and are interested in being a part of these TAG meetings, please [subscribe to receive updates](#) and watch for application process notifications.

Sincerely,

Randall Matas
Deputy Director, ADEQ Water Quality Division

Questions? Contact:

ReuseRulemaking@azdeq.gov

About ADEQ

Under the Environmental Quality Act of 1986, the Arizona State Legislature established the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in 1987 as the state agency for protecting and enhancing public health and the environment of Arizona. For more information, visit azdeq.gov.



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