

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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**FACT SHEET:  
New Community Public Water System**

According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, any water system that supplies more than 25 people or 15 service connections per day for at least 60 days per year is classified as a public water system. A *community water system (CWS)* is defined as a system that serves the same 25 or more year-round residents. For complete requirements for public water systems, please refer to Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 4. Copies are available from the office of the Arizona Secretary of State or online at [www.azsos.gov](http://www.azsos.gov) Following are major requirements for a new CWS.

1. **Capacity Development Approval.** The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) reviews community systems' financial and technical capacity. Systems must obtain this approval before receiving an operating permit from Maricopa County. Please contact Kathy Stevens of ADEQ at (602) 771-4653 for more information on this requirement.
2. **New Source Approval.** New Source Approval is required for both groundwater and surface water sources. To obtain New Source Approval, you must submit a New Source Approval application, which includes a chemical analysis of all regulated contaminants in the source water; a copy of the Department of Water Resources registration; and for a well, a well driller's log. There is a review fee of \$425.
3. **Engineering Approval.** Arizona law requires water system components, including wells, treatment plants, storage and pressure tanks, distribution mains, and booster pumps, to obtain approvals to construct and approvals of construction. The system must complete these applications and submit plans sealed by a Professional Engineer with required review fees. Please contact Wesley Shoner, P.E. at (602) 506-0376 for more information on engineering requirements.
4. **Certified Operator.** All public water systems must obtain the services of a certified water operator. Operators monitor the water for various contaminants throughout the year, including bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, lead, and copper. A certified operator must inspect each well site a minimum of once per month. An employee or associate of the system may wish to become certified. You may contact Bill Reed of ADEQ at (602) 771-4638 or refer to the ADEQ web site [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov) for more information on operator certification.
5. **MAP.** Water systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people may be required to participate in ADEQ's Monitoring Assistance Program (MAP). MAP performs much of the required sampling for systems, but does not sample for bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, lead, and copper. Please contact Scott Steinhagen of ADEQ at (602) 771-4445 for more information, including program fees.
6. **Operating Permit.** After the system receives New Source Approval, the Department will assign a new public water system identification number and send an application for a Maricopa County water system permit. You must return the signed application with the appropriate annual permit fee.

If a public water system, as defined above, serves a residential or transient community, it may be required to meet somewhat different standards. Please contact Duncan Wright at (602)-506-5173 or [dwright@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:dwright@mail.maricopa.gov) with any questions.