2023 TOWN OF PAYSON
Consumer Confidence Report
Public Water System ID AZ0404032
CLEAN, SAFE WATER THAT OUR CUSTOMERS CAN TRUST

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires water systems to publish and make available an annual Consumer Confidence Report to provide background on the quality of your water and to show compliance with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and state drinking water standards.

This 2023 Annual Consumer Confidence Report is a snapshot of the quality of our local water supply in the Town of Payson during 2023. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to strict Federal and State standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

TOWN OF PAYSON(TOP) WATER SUPPLY PORTFOLIO

TOP Water's supply comes from two main sources, ground water and surface water. Leveraging multiple sources of water ensures our customers always have water when they need it. A staff of 21 well-trained and reliable full- time employees provide a variety of services for our customers.

GROUNDWATER

Payson's groundwater is considered hard. The hardness is due to dissolved minerals primarily calcium and magnesium in the water. These minerals are not harmful but can leave white spots on glassware and plumbing fixtures. Most recent testing of our active wells showed hardness in the range of 88-450 ppm (5.2–26.32 gpg). The groundwater is treated by adding a small amount of Sodium Hypochlorite also known as liquid bleach or Calcium Hypochlorite to disinfect the water and prevent bacterial growth.

SURFACE WATER & RECHARGED WATER

The Town is treating surface water from the C.C. Cragin Reservoir to meet its municipal demand and storing (recharging) excess treated surface water in the underlying fractured bedrock aquifer. C.C. Cragin's surface water is considered soft, with a median hardness of 28 ppm (1.6 gpg). The town buffers the water by adding minerals to stabilize the water and prevent corrosion. Surface water from C.C. Cragin Reservoir is treated by micro-filtration and granular activated carbon. Next, lime and carbon dioxide are added to buffer the water and prevent corrosion. The final process includes adding a small amount of Sodium Hypochlorite to disinfect and prevent bacterial growth.

WATER TALK:

HOW MUCH WATER IS IN AN ACRE-FOOT?

One acre-foot of water equals 325,851 gallons of water. That's enough water to cover a football field one foot deep.

TOP WATER SNAPSHOT FOR 2023

Serving our community safe and reliable water that meets or surpasses rigorous state and federal standards is a must for our department. It takes a lot of water quality sampling and analysis, storage facilities, pumps, and pipelines, along with our talented team of water professionals, to make sure water is delivered to your homes 24/7.

9027
Service Connections

141
State & Federal Required Contaminants Tests for 2023

36 Production Wells
that draw water from an aquifer consisting of a series of complex random cracks and fractures in the granite rock beneath the town.

16351
per 2020 census
Population Served

440+ Million
Gallons of Water Served to Customers in 2023

9.1 Million
Gallons of Water Storage Capacity

200
Miles of Pipe

500
Acre-feet of Water Stored from injection recharge of Cragin Water

9 ASR Wells
Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells aka Injection Wells

Preserving our Future, a look back on 2023!

On the week of December 11th the Water Dept. began the work of shutting down the C.C. Cragin project for the 2023 operating year. Through dilligent planning and a lot of team effort, the Water Dept. switched from Cragin water back to groundwater on December 15, 2023. Groundwater will continue being delivered to customers through April 2024. Once again the Water Dept. staff did a great job managing and delivering the Cragin water from May to mid December this year. Hats off to the staff who work hard to make sure high quality water is available to the the Town of Payson residents.

In its 5th operational year running the Cragin project, the Town treated and delivered a total of 1,830 acre-feet (596 million gallons) of Cragin water this year. Of this volume, about 500 acre-feet (162 million gallons) of Cragin water was injected back into the aquifer to replenish groundwater levels in Payson.

The Cragin project has enabled Payson to be one of the only communities in Arizona to have a surplus of water resources. Groundwater levels throughout town are rising to their historic, pre-development levels, which is a rare accomplishment in the desert southwest. This groundwater replenishment effort will help offset water demands in years when/if drought effects water storage levels at the C.C. Cragin reservoir in future years.

Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) Participation and Results

The Town of Payson is happy to announce our participation in the UCMR5 sampling. UCMR 5 required sample collection for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium, during a 12-month period from January 2023 through December 2025, and completion of data reporting in 2026, using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. The Town of Payson is anticipating completion of the UCMR5 sampling at the end of May 2024. This action provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. Consistent with EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap, UCMR 5 will provide new data that is critically needed to improve EPA's understanding of the 29 PFAS (and lithium), where they are found in the nation's drinking water systems and at what levels. This data will ensure science-based decision-making and help prioritize the protection of disadvantaged communities.

General Information about Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The EPA and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, other microbial contaminants, contaminants, and potential health effects are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

About the Water Quality Data Table

ARSENIC

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

NITRATE

In drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Payson is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

FLUORIDE

The Town of Payson does not add fluoride to its drinking water. Fluoride is naturally occurring in our groundwater with an average concentration of 0.61 ppm. Testing of C.C. Cragin water showed levels of fluoride in the range of 0.042 ppm or less.

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

To help you understand the terms and abbreviations used in this report, we have provided the following definitions:

- Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A = not applicable; N/D = not detected
- Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) Measurement of the clarity or turbidity of water
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) -one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) -one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) - An average of monitoring results for the previous 12 calendar months.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT & PROTECTION

On August 05, 2003, ADEQ staff published a Source Assessment document that provides detailed information on the Town of Payson's drinking water sources and the vulnerability of those sources to contamination. Based on currently available information, ADEQ determined that our source water is susceptible to possible future contamination. Source Water Assessments are on file with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and available for public review at: ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The following lists examples of potential sources of contamination and their detected substances:

- Barium- Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
- Copper- Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
- Fluoride- Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
- Gross Alpha- Erosion of natural deposits
- Haloacetic Acids- Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
- Lead- Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
- Nitrate- Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
- Combined Radium- Erosion of natural deposits
- Tetrachloroethylene- Discharge from dry cleaners
- Total Trihalomethanes- By-product of drinking water chlorination
- Xylenes- Byproduct of Storage Reservoir Coating

The Sources of Drinking Water

Tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Town of Payson 2023 Water Quality Analysis

The Water Quality Table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Although many more contaminants were tested, only detected constituents of concern deemed by primary drinking water standards are listed.

The table show results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023, for PWS 04-04032, unless otherwise noted.

Microbiological Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Low Range**	**High Range**	**Running Annual Average**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Total Coliform/E.coli (240 Annual samples)	Present/ Absent	TT	0	Absent	Absent	Absent	No	Naturally present in the environment

Disinfection By-Products, Disinfectants and Surface Water Rule	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	**Low Range**	**High Range**	**Running Annual Average**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	80*	N/A	13.0	85	43	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	ppb	60*	N/A	ND	65	30.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Compliance is based on a system wide locational running annual average, not the highest detected amount.

	Unit	**MCL MRDL**	**MCLG MRDLG**	**Low Range**	**High Range**	**Running Annual Average**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Chlorine Residual	ppm	4	4	0.50	1.79	0.88	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Turbidity (Surface Water)		Limit (Treatment Technique)	**Level Detected**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
	Highest single measurement	1NTU	0.047 NTU	No	Soil runoff
	Lowest monthly % meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	100%	No	Soil runoff

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

	Unit	**AL**	**MCLG**	**90th Percentile Value**	**Sites Exceeding Action Level**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Lead (30 samples-annually)	ppm	0.015	0	0.0055	1-Water department staff were able to help the resident figure out the cause of their high result and offer resolution.	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (30 samples-annually)	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.3000	0	Corrosion of household plumbing

Lead and Copper Rule Standard: 90% of homes tested must have lead and copper levels below the action level.

Water Quality Analysis Continued...

Inorganic Contaminants	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Low Range	High Range	Avg. Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	N/D	2.5	1.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass, and electronic production waste glass, and electronic production wastes
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0089	0.17	0.069	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	N/D	1.8	0.61	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury	ppm	2	2	N/D	0.00076	0.00009	No	Common element in nature
Nitrate as N	ppm	10	10	N/D	6.2	1.67	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level	Range of levels	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	2.0	0-2	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Xylenes	ppm	10	10	0.00076	00-0.000076	No	Discharge from petroleum factories and/or chemical factories

Secondary Standards

Constituents of Frequent Interest to Customers for 2023	Unit	2nd MCL	2nd MCLG	Low Range	High Range	Avg. Detected	Violation	Noticeable Effects above Secondary MCL
Total Hardness	ppm	-	-	88	450	231.60	No	Mineral buildup on items;
	Grains	-	-	5.2	26.32	13.54	No	
Iron	ppm	0.3	-	N/D	0.18	0.42	No	Rusty Color; sediment; metallic taste; reddish or orange staining
PH	SU	6.5-8.5		6.60	7.7	7.20	No	Low pH=bitter metallic taste; High pH=slippery feel, soda taste
Chloride	ppm	250		6.70	141.0	35.67	No	Salty taste
Manganese	ppm	0.05		N/D	0.38	0.043	No	Black to brown in color and staining
Sodium	ppm			7.80	68.0	22.89	No	Common element in nature
Sulfate as SO4	ppm	250		1.38	87.4	19.56	No	Salty taste
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	500		116.00	642.0	303.43	No	Hardness; deposits; colored staining water and salty tase

Water Quality Table – Unregulated Contaminants

Your drinking water was sampled for the presence and concentration of 29 different per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, some known by the acronyms PFAS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX, a group of contaminants in the final stages of becoming regulated by the EPA. PFAS are man-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. They have been used since the 1940s to manufacture various consumer products, including fire-fighting foam and stain resistant, water-resistant, and nonstick items. Many PFAS do not break down easily and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain PFAS can be harmful to people and animals, depending on the level and duration of exposure.

To learn more about this group of chemicals, we encourage you to read the ADEQ-provided "PFAS 101 Fact Sheet" and to visit the ADEQ website at https://www.azdeq.gov/pfas-resources

UCMR5 and ADEQ Sampling PFAS Results

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Payson's Highest Level Detected	Range of All Samples from Payson	Hazard Index (HI) level	Proposed MCL
PFOA (in parts per trillion)	47	N/D-47	N/A*	4.0 ppt
PFOS (in parts per trillion)	45	N/D-45	N/A*	4.0 ppt
PFNA (in parts per trillion)	3.1	N/D-3.1	10	N/A*
PFHxS (in parts per trillion)	55	N/D-55	9	N/A*
PFBS (in parts per trillion)	61	N/D-61	2000	N/A*
GenX (in parts per trillion)	0	N/D	10	N/A*
Calculated Hazard Index (HI)	6.45			1 (no units)

*** EPA is proposing a Hazard Index MCL to limit any mixture containing one or more of PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and/or GenX Chemicals. The Hazard Index considers the different toxicities of PFNA, GenX Chemicals, PFHxS, and PFBS. For these PFAS, water systems would use a hazard index calculation to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS in the drinking water at that system pose a potential risk and require action (Source: EPA Fact Sheet: Understanding the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Proposal Hazard Index).**

UCMR5 and ADEQ Sampling PFAS Results cont....

Twenty-nine Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (In parts per trillion)	Detected (Y/N)	Average of Results (ppt)	Detection Range (Low-High)	Minimum Reporting Level (ppt)	Analytical Methods
1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (6:2 FTS)	Y	1.03	N/D-26	5	EPA 533
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	Y	19.16	N/D-61	3	EPA 533
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	Y	7.13	N/D-36	5	EPA 533
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	Y	0.34	N/D-3.7	3	EPA 533
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	Y	3.93	N/D-37	3	EPA 533
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	Y	6.58	N/D-55	3	EPA 533
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Y	8.89	N/D-60	3	EPA 533
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	Y	0.415	N/D-3.1	4	EPA 533
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	Y	8.87	N/D-45	4	EPA 533
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Y	11.06	N/D-47	4	EPA 533
Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid (PFPeS)	Y	0.58	N/D-6.8	4	EPA 533
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	Y	10.75	N/D-77	3	EPA 533
n-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSAA)	Y	0.69	N/D-2.3	5	EPA 537.1
n-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid (NMeFOSAA)	Y	0.133	N/D-2.2	6	EPA 537.1
One Metal	**Detected (Y/N)**	**Average**	**Detection Range (Low-High)**	**MRL (ppb)**	**Analytical Methods**
Lithium (ppb)	Y	24.38	N/D-57.2	9 µg/L	EPA 200.7, SM 3120 B, ASTM D1976–20

ADEQ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Katie Hobbs, Governor • Karen Peters, Director
azdeq.gov

FACT SHEET

Publication Number: FS-23-10

PFAS 101

What are PFAS?

PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. PFAS are man-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. They have been used since the 1940s to manufacture various consumer products, including fire-fighting foam and stain-resistant, water-resistant, and nonstick items.

Many PFAS do not break down easily and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. This is why they are often referred to as "forever chemicals".

Scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain PFAS can be harmful to people and animals, depending on the level and duration of exposure.

Pending PFAS Regulation

PFAS are not currently regulated nationally or in Arizona. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a national regulation for PFAS in drinking water. The proposed regulation includes "Maximum Contaminant Levels" for six common PFAS, which are based on long-term, chronic exposure to low levels. EPA expects to finalize the drinking water regulation by 2024, and then water systems will be given three years to address PFAS contamination.

In addition to PFAS drinking water regulations, EPA has proposed other actions like designating some PFAS as hazardous substances, which would allow the state and federal government to hold polluters accountable. EPA also proposed aquatic life standards to help protect wildlife in our streams and rivers.

What We Are Doing to Protect Public Health:

ADEQ has conducted targeted testing since 2018 to understand the impact of PFAS in Arizona. This testing has included drinking water, groundwater, wastewater, and biosolids.

To prevent PFAS from entering the environment, we launched a pilot program to help fire departments stop using PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foams. We have worked with 52 fire departments across Arizona to replace and safely discard almost 10,000 gallons of foam to date.

Testing Arizona's Drinking Water

EPA is requiring that public water systems serving 3,300 people or more test their drinking water for PFAS. However, most systems in Arizona serve fewer than 3,300 people. Therefore,

we are testing the smaller water systems even though the EPA does not require it. Our goal is to make sure that all regulated water systems are tested for PFAS as soon as possible.

What Happens if PFAS are Detected?

If PFAS are detected, we ask systems to follow EPA recommendations to inform customers, examine steps to limit exposure, and take more samples to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination. When a system's PFAS concentrations exceed EPA's proposed limits, we help the systems perform additional testing, begin exploring potential solutions and even apply for federal funding, if needed. We also provide systems with a PFAS Toolkit to help them meet the challenges. The toolkit includes information about funding, customer communication and next steps.

Benefits of ADEQ's Drinking Water Testing Program

ADEQ's PFAS drinking water testing program offers several benefits to small drinking water systems and their customers. It provides free PFAS testing to these systems, potentially saving them significant costs. It also offers assistance with next steps if PFAS are detected. With many systems across the country facing similar challenges, it is important that Arizona's drinking water systems begin planning to meet the new rules as soon as possible.

Want to learn more?

Visit **azdeq.gov/PFAS-Resources** to:

- Contact us
- Watch our *Intro to PFAS in Arizona* video
- Explore other resources

You can also find our PFAS Interactive Data Map at **bit.ly/myPFASmap** to see results from our testing since 2018.

ADEQ News Release

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Partners with the Town of Payson to Tackle Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Local Drinking Water Systems

PHOENIX (March 13, 2024) – In response to concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in two public drinking water systems serving the Payson community, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is collaborating with the Town of Payson on actions and solutions that will ensure community members in the area receive healthy drinking water.

This collaboration is made possible by funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority received the state's portion of the federal Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant and passed the $42 million to ADEQ to provide direct assistance to small or disadvantaged communities in Arizona. This assistance will result in local infrastructure for drinking water systems, such as a treatment facility or connection to a clean drinking water source, to address emerging contaminants. Projects whose primary purpose is to address the challenges of PFAS in drinking water will be the focus of these funds.

"The Town of Payson and Twin Lakes Mobile Home Park are among the first public water systems in the state to benefit from this important funding," said ADEQ Cabinet Executive Officer Karen Peters. "ADEQ is providing engineering and technical expertise and financial resources to address PFAS found in the Town's drinking water and then connect a neighboring small public water system to Payson's water system."

To assist Payson, ADEQ is contracting with a local engineering firm to develop a compliance options report to identify viable alternatives for mitigating PFAS in the Town's drinking water system. The report will support the Town's decision-making processes and help determine the most appropriate and cost-effective solution.

Additionally, the contractor will design a service connection for Twin Lakes Mobile Home Park to the Town of Payson's drinking water system to provide clean drinking water to the mobile home park. Future phases of these projects will include the construction of related infrastructure.

"The Town of Payson and ADEQ have successfully maintained a longstanding cooperative relationship in operating the groundwater remediation system for the Payson PCE Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund site since 1998," said Town of Payson Water Department Director Tanner Henry. "In concert with this partnership, we are excited that ADEQ has once again stepped up to the plate to help us with our PFAS issues. We are certainly blessed to have this opportunity to expand our groundwater treatment capabilities and continue our delivery of safe drinking water to the community."

Background and Resources

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals with fire-retardant properties that have been used commercially in the United States to make products like stain and water- resistant carpet and textiles, food packaging, firefighting foam, as well as in other industrial processes. Some PFAS can accumulate in people, animals, and the environment over time. While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals are in water supplies. A lifetime of exposure to certain PFAS levels in drinking water is associated with negative health effects.

In anticipation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalizing its National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for certain PFAS compounds, which will apply to approximately 950 Arizona systems, both ADEQ and public water systems have been conducting PFAS testing to identify the extent of PFAS in Arizona drinking water. While data for large systems is still being collected under EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing program, estimates from ADEQ's ongoing sampling, which is 90 percent complete, indicate that 70 or more small water systems (serving 3,300 or fewer customers) could require PFAS mitigation when EPA's regulation goes into effect.

To provide support to small water systems and disadvantaged communities that will need assistance to address PFAS, ADEQ developed and is implementing a statewide drinking water PFAS mitigation plan. ADEQ's plan leverages both $42 million in federal BIL funding and an additional $5 million in state funding and includes:

*Testing for public drinking water systems – Confirming PFAS contamination and testing for other contaminants that can interfere with PFAS treatment.
*Hydrogeologic evaluations – We are assessing several PFAS-impacted areas of the state where the hydrogeology is less studied. These evaluations will help drinking water providers make decisions such as removing wells from service, relocating wells, blending water, and connecting with another system.
*Treatment and infrastructure improvements – Providing funding for the design and construction of PFAS mitigation strategies, such as connecting to a clean water source, deepening existing wells or drilling new wells, or PFAS treatment. PFAS education for drinking water professionals – Hosting a forum to discuss industry perspectives on PFAS solutions, developing technical guidance documents for engineers designing PFAS treatment systems and conducting ongoing training webinars.

The Town of Payson is committed to providing a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water for our community both now and in the future.

A paper version of this report is available at...

- Town of Payson Water Department, 303 N. Beeline Highway, Bldg. A, Payson, AZ 85541
- The Payson Public Library 328 N McLane Rd. Payson, AZ 85541

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline and website:
(800) 426-4791
EPA Ground and Drinking Water
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (602)771-2300
ADEQ Water Quality Program

If you have any questions about your drinking water, please call: Gordon Dimbat, Water Quality & Treatment Manager
gdimbat@paysonaz.gov
(928) 472-5109
Town of Payson's Web Site: www.paysonaz.gov

Payson
Arizona's Cool Mountain Town

Town of Payson Water Department
303 N. Beeline Highway
Bldg. A,
Payson, AZ 85.541

PRSTSTD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDOM RETAIL

LOCAL
POSTALCUSTOMER