§ 49-351. Designation of responsible state agency

A. The department of environmental quality is designated as the responsible agency for this state to take all actions necessary or appropriate to ensure that all potable water distributed or sold to the public through public water systems is free from unwholesome, poisonous, deleterious or other foreign substances and filth or disease causing substances or organisms. All such actions shall be taken at the direction of the director of the department.

B. All state agencies and any local health agencies involved with water quality, at the request of the director, shall provide to the department any assistance requested to ensure that this article is effectuated.



§ 49-352. Classifying systems and certifying personnel; limitation

A. The department shall establish and enforce rules for the classification of systems for potable water and certifying operating personnel according to the skill, knowledge and experience necessary within the classification. The rules shall also provide that operating personnel may be certified on the basis of training and supervision at the place of employment. The department may assess and collect reasonable certification fees to reimburse the cost of certification services, which shall be deposited in the water quality fee fund established by section 49-210. Such rules apply to all public water systems involved in the collection, storage, treatment or distribution of potable water. The rules do not apply to systems that are not public water systems , including irrigation, industrial or similar systems where the water is used for nonpotable purposes.

- B. For the purposes of this article:
- 1. A public water system is a water system that:
- (a) Provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances.
- (b) Has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five persons daily for at least sixty days a year.
- 2. A public water system as described in paragraph 1, subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection includes any collection, treatment, storage and distribution facilities that are under the control of the operator of a public water system and that are used primarily in connection with the system and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities that are not under the control of the operator of a public water system and that are used primarily in connection with a public water system.
- 3. A service connection does not include a connection to a system that delivers water by a constructed conveyance other than a pipe, if any of the following applies:
- (a) The water is used exclusively for purposes other than residential uses consisting of drinking, cooking or bathing or other similar uses.
- (b) The department determines that alternative water is provided for residential or similar uses for drinking and cooking and that the water achieves a level of public health protection that is equivalent to the applicable national primary drinking water regulations.



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- (c) The department determines that the water that is provided for residential or similar uses for drinking, cooking and bathing is centrally treated or is treated at the point of entry by the water provider, a pass-through entity or the user to achieve the level of public health protection that is equivalent to the applicable national primary drinking water regulations.
- 4. An irrigation district in existence before May 18, 1994 and that provides primarily agricultural service through a piped water system with only incidental residential or similar use is not a public water system if the system or the residential or other similar users of the system comply with paragraph 3, subdivision (b) or (c) of this subsection.
- 5. Persons who receive water through connections that are not service connections pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection are not included in the computation of the number of persons prescribed by paragraph 1, subdivision (b) of this subsection.

(Amended by L. 2016, ch. 192,s. 2, eff. 8/5/2016.)



§ 49-353. Duties of director; rules; prohibited lead use

A. The director shall:

- 1. Exercise general supervision over all matters related to water quality control of public water systems throughout this state.
- 2. Prescribe rules regarding the production, treatment, distribution and testing of potable water by public water systems, except that such rules shall not apply to irrigation, industrial or similar systems where the water is used for nonpotable purposes. The rules shall comply with at least the following:
- (a) The requirements established by the United States environmental protection agency for state primary enforcement responsibility of the safe drinking water act, including the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 141 and 142.
- (b) Require that the plans and specifications for all public water systems, including water treatment plants, distribution systems, distribution system extensions, water treatment methods and devices and all appurtenances and devices for sale to be used in water supplies and public water systems be submitted with a fee for review to the department. The department, in establishing fees authorized by this section, shall comply with title 41, chapter 6. The department shall not set a fee at more than the department's cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. State agencies are exempt from all fees imposed pursuant to this section. Monies collected from the fees shall be deposited in the water quality fee fund established by section 49-210. The director may require that plans and specifications for public water systems include programs to meet future needs for drinking water and to supply specified minimum quantities of drinking water. The director shall:
- (i) Require that a new public water system demonstrate that the system possesses adequate managerial and financial capacity to operate in compliance with this article and the rules adopted pursuant to this article.
- (ii) Accept adequate findings of other public authorities regarding the adequate managerial and financial capacity of a public water system to operate in compliance with this article and the rules adopted pursuant to this article.
- (c) Provide that no public water system, including a water treatment plant, distribution system, distribution system extension, water treatment method or device, appurtenance and device used in water supplies or public water systems be constructed, reconstructed, installed or initiated before



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compliance with the standards and rules has been demonstrated by approval of the plans and specifications by the department. The rules shall prescribe minimum standards for the bacteriological, physical and chemical quality of water distributed through public water systems. The director of environmental quality may consult with the director of the department of health services in developing these standards.

- (d) Provide for a simplified administrative procedure for approving structural revisions, additions, extensions or modifications to existing small public water systems for potable water serving a population of three thousand three hundred or fewer persons.
- (e) Exempt from the plan review requirements of this paragraph, including any requirements for approval to construct or approval of construction, any structural revisions, additions, extensions or modifications to public water systems which are in compliance with the department's rules applicable to those systems or which are making satisfactory progress towards compliance under a schedule approved by the department if either of the following conditions is satisfied:
- (i) The revision, addition, extension or modification has a project cost of twelve thousand five hundred dollars or less.
- (ii) The revision, addition, extension or modification is made to a water line which is not for a subdivision requiring plat approval by a city, town or county, and has a project cost of more than twelve thousand five hundred dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars, the design of which is sealed by a professional engineer registered in this state and the construction of which is reviewed for conformance with the design by a professional engineer.
- (f) Require a notice of compliance with the conditions for exemption upon the completion of any revisions, additions, extensions or modifications completed in accordance with subdivision (e) of this paragraph.
- (g) Provide for the submission of samples at stated intervals.
- (h) Provide for inspection and certification of such water supplies.
- (i) Provide for the abatement as public nuisances of any premises, equipment, process or device, or public water system that does not comply with the minimum standards and rules.
- (j) Provide for records regarding water quality to be kept by owners and operators of the public water systems and that reports regarding water quality be filed with the department.



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- (k) Provide for appropriate actions to be taken if a water supply does not meet the standards established by the department.
- (l) Require a public water system to implement a specified program to control contamination from backflow, backsiphonage or cross connection. All such programs shall be consistent with title 41, chapter 16.
- (m) Require that public water systems identify and provide notice to persons that may be affected by lead contamination of their drinking water where such contamination results from either or both of the following:
- (i) The lead content in the construction materials of the public water distribution system.
- (ii) Corrosivity of the water supply sufficient to cause leaching of lead.
- (n) Provide for relief from water testing and monitoring requirements for public water systems qualifying under the federal safe drinking water act (P.L. 93-523; 88 Stat. 1661; P.L. 95-190; 91 Stat. 1393; P.L. 104-182; 110 Stat. 1613), as amended in 1996.
- 3. Develop and implement strategies to assist public water systems in acquiring and maintaining the technical, managerial and financial capacity to operate in compliance with this article and the rules adopted pursuant to this article. Assistance may be provided based on the needs of the water system.
- B. Pipes , pipe fittings and plumbing fittings and fixtures having a lead content in excess of a weighted average of one-quarter of one percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces and solders and flux having a lead content in excess of two-tenths of one percent shall not be used in the installation or repair of public water systems or of any plumbing in residential or nonresidential facilities providing water for human consumption . The weighted average lead content of a pipe, pipe fitting or plumbing fitting or fixture shall be calculated as follows:
- 1. For each wetted component, the percentage of lead in the component shall be multiplied by the ratio of the wetted surface area of that component to the total wetted surface area of the entire product to arrive at the weighted percentage of lead of the component.
- 2. The weighted percentage of lead of each wetted component shall be added together, and the sum of these weighted percentages shall constitute the weighted average lead content of the product.



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- 3. The lead content of the material used to produce a wetted component shall be used to determine compliance with this subsection.
- 4. For lead content of materials that are provided as a range, the maximum content of that range shall be used.
- C. S ubsection b of this section does not apply to:
- 1. L eaded joints necessary for the repair of cast iron pipes.
- 2. pipes, pipe fittings and plumbing fittings and fixtures, including backflow preventers, that are used exclusively for nonpotable water services such as manufacturing, industrial processing, irrigation, outdoor watering or any other uses where the water is not anticipated to be used for human consumption.
- 3. toilets, bidets, urinals, fill valves, flushometer valves, tub fillers, shower valves or service saddles or water distribution main gate valves that are two inches in diameter or larger.
- D. Notwithstanding subsection A, paragraph 2, subdivision (c) of this section, a public water system may construct, reconstruct, install, extend or initiate a water supply system, water treatment plant, distribution system, water treatment method or device, or appurtenance that is used in water supply or in a public water system when the system is out of compliance with standards and rules adopted pursuant to this article only if the construction is necessary to correct the system's noncompliance.
- E. T his section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section apply to public water systems as described by section 49-352, subsection B.

(Amended by L. 2016, ch. 128,s. 122, eff. 6/30/2016. Amended by L. 2016, ch. 192,s. 3, eff. 8/5/2016.)



§ 49-353.01. Duties of director; rules; standards; water supply; definition

- A. The director shall adopt rules which prescribe minimum standards for the:
- 1. Sanitary facilities and conditions that shall be maintained by any public water system.
- 2. Chemicals, additives and drinking water system components that come into contact with drinking water that is used by any domestic or industrial water supply and that is sold or distributed to the public.
- B. Chemicals and additives certified as conforming to the national sanitation foundation standards comply with the standards required by this section.
- C. In those instances where chemicals, additives and drinking water system components that come into contact with drinking water are essential to the design, construction or operation of the drinking water system and have not been certified by the national sanitation foundation or have national sanitation foundation certification but are not available from more than one source, the standards shall provide for the use of alternatives which include:
- Chemicals and additives composed entirely of ingredients determined by the environmental protection agency, the food and drug administration or other federal agencies as appropriate for addition to potable water or aqueous food.
- 2. Chemicals and additives composed entirely of ingredients listed in the national academy of sciences water chemicals codex.
- 3. Chemicals, additives and drinking water system components consistent with the specifications of the American water works association.
- 4. Chemicals, additives and drinking water system components that are designed for use in drinking water systems and that are consistent with the specifications of the American society for testing and materials.
- 5. Drinking water system components that are historically used or in use in drinking water systems consistent with standard practice and that have not been demonstrated during past applications in the United States to contribute to water contamination.
- D. Except as identified by the department as an alternative in accordance with this section at or after the time of use or installation, drinking water



ARS 49-353.01 Duties of director; rules; standards; water supply; definition (Arizona Revised Statutes (2021 Edition))

system components installed and used after January 1, 1993 shall conform to the national sanitation foundation standards.

- E. The director of the department of environmental quality may consult with the director of the department of health services in developing the standards prescribed by this section.
- F. For the purposes of this section, "drinking water system components" means equipment and materials that are used in a drinking water system, including process media, protective materials, joining and sealing materials, pipes and related products, mechanical devices and mechanical plumbing devices.



ARS 49-354 Enforcement; violation; classification; compliance orders; judicial review; injunctive relief; civil administrative penalties; interim operator or manager; civil penalties (Arizona Revised Statutes (2021 Edition))

§ 49-354. Enforcement; violation; classification; compliance orders; judicial review; injunctive relief; civil administrative penalties; interim operator or manager; civil penalties

A. A person who violates this article or a rule adopted pursuant to this article is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor for each violation. In the instance of a continuing violation, each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

- B. If the director determines that a person is in violation of this article or a rule adopted pursuant to this article, the director may issue an order requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period. A compliance order shall state with reasonable specificity the nature of the violation, a time for compliance if applicable and the right to a hearing. The director shall transmit the compliance order to the alleged violator by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery. A compliance order becomes final and enforceable in the superior court unless within thirty days after the receipt of the order the alleged violator requests a hearing before an administrative law judge pursuant to title 41, chapter 6, article 10. If a hearing is requested, the order does not become final until the administrative law judge has issued a final decision on the appeal. Except as provided in section 41-1092.08, subsection H, a final administrative decision is subject to judicial review pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6. At the request of the director the attorney general may begin an action in superior court to enforce orders issued under this subsection after an order becomes final.
- C. If the director determines that a person is in violation of this article or a rule adopted pursuant to this article to implement the requirements contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 141 and 142, including the national primary drinking water regulations, the director may issue a compliance order pursuant to subsection B of this section imposing a civil administrative penalty. All penalty amounts shall be calculated as follows:
- 1. If the violator is a public water system that serves more than ten thousand persons, the director may impose a civil administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per day per violation up to \$10,000 per violation.
- 2. If the violator is a public water system that serves five hundred to ten thousand persons, the director may impose a civil administrative penalty that does not exceed \$500 per day per violation up to \$5,000 per violation.
- 3. If the violator is a public water system that serves fewer than five hundred persons, the director may impose a civil administrative penalty that does not exceed \$100 per day per violation up to \$1,000 per violation.



ARS 49-354 Enforcement; violation; classification; compliance orders; judicial review; injunctive relief; civil administrative penalties; interim operator or manager; civil penalties (Arizona Revised Statutes (2021 Edition))

- D. When determining the amount of a civil administrative penalty pursuant to subsection C of this section, the director shall consider all of the following:
- 1. The size of the public water system.
- 2. Any good faith effort by the public water system to maintain compliance with national primary drinking water regulations.
- 3. The seriousness of the violation.
- 4. Any history of violation of the national primary drinking water regulations.
- 5. Any history of recalcitrance by the violator.
- 6. Any economic benefit resulting from the violation, as an aggravating factor only.
- 7. Any other factor deemed relevant.
- E. For a public water system that is regulated as a public service corporation by the corporation commission, the department may make a written request to the corporation commission to take necessary corrective actions within thirty calendar days after both of the following conditions occur:
- 1. The department does any one or more of the following:
- (a) Determines that the facility is out of compliance with an administrative order issued by the department for a violation of this chapter.
- (b) Files a civil action against the owner or operator of the public water system for a violation of this chapter.
- (c) Determines that an emergency exists with respect to the public water system.
- 2. The department determines that the corporation commission taking necessary corrective actions would expedite the public water system's return to compliance with this chapter.
- F. Civil administrative penalties may not be recovered pursuant to subsection C of this section if civil penalties are sought pursuant to subsection H of this section for the same violation.



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G. All civil administrative penalties obtained pursuant to subsection C of this section shall be deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the state general fund.

H. In addition to the authority provided in subsection C of this section, the attorney general may, and at the request of the director shall, begin an action in superior court to recover civil penalties in an amount of not more than \$500 per violation per day from any person who violates this article or a rule adopted pursuant to this article. All civil penalties obtained under this subsection shall be deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the state general fund. Civil penalties may not be recovered pursuant to this subsection if civil administrative penalties are sought pursuant to subsection C of this section for the same violation.

I. If the director has reason to believe that a person is in violation of this article or a rule adopted or an order issued pursuant to this article or believes that a person is creating an actual or potential endangerment to the public health because of acts performed in violation of this article or a rule adopted pursuant to this article, the director, through the attorney general, may request a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, a permanent injunction or any other relief necessary to protect the public health.

(Amended by L. 2019, ch. 254,s. 2, eff. 8/27/2019.)



§ 49-355. Small drinking water systems fund; grants; definition

A. The small drinking water systems fund is established in the water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona. The fund consists of monies appropriated by the legislature. Monies in the fund are exempt from lapsing under section 35-190. Interest earned on monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

- B. Monies from the small drinking water systems fund shall be used to provide grants, including emergency grants, to interim operators, interim managers or owners of small drinking water systems to repair, replace or upgrade water infrastructure as required for compliance with title 40, chapter 2, this chapter or any rule adopted under title 40, chapter 2 or this chapter.
- C. On recommendation of the department in consultation with the corporation commission , the water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona may approve a grant from the fund to an interim operator , an interim manager or an owner of a small drinking water system pursuant to this section only if the interim operator , the interim manager or the owner demonstrates that it requires financial assistance to replace, make repairs to , rehabilitate or upgrade the drinking water system infrastructure in order to correct or avoid an interruption in water service or to comply with title 40, chapter 2, this chapter or any rule adopted under title 40, chapter 2 or this chapter. The department shall include in its recommendation to the water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona a written statement that is signed by the director and that includes a detailed assessment of the direct public benefit of the grant, a certification that disbursement of monies is in the best interests of this state and, if applicable, a determination that the grant is in response to an emergency.
- D. Before disbursing monies to an authorized recipient pursuant to this section, the water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona shall enter into a written grant agreement with the recipient. The terms of the agreement shall include at least the following:
- 1. Performance targets and target dates for matters associated WITH the grant as determined by the department.
- 2. Terms for payment of monies to the recipient and repayment to this state as prescribed by subsection F of this section.
- E. The written grant agreement may require that a reasonable percentage of the total amount of the grant be withheld until the recipient meets specified performance targets.



- F. The water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona may require repayment to this state of a portion or all of the grant monies with interest at an agreed rate and on agreed terms. The repayment may be required if either of the following applies:
- 1. The water infrastructure finance authority of Arizona in coordination with the department finds that the grant recipient has not met performance targets specified in the written grant agreement on or before the dates specified in the agreement.
- 2. The written grant agreement prescribes The repayment.
- G. Emergency grants made pursuant to this section are exempt from title 41, chapter 23.
- H. For the purposes of this section, "small drinking water system" means a public water system as prescribed in section 49-352 that serves ten thousand or fewer persons.

(Amended by L. 2017, ch. 213,s. 1, eff. 8/9/2017. Amended by L. 2015, ch. 241,s. 1, eff. 7/2/2015.)



§ 49-356. Water systems; designating lead agency; coordinating council

- A. The department of environmental quality is designated as the lead agency to review the operations of water systems and the practices of governmental agencies that oversee and regulate them.
- B. A water systems coordinating council is established in the department of environmental quality consisting of representatives of at least the following governmental entities and agencies or private water systems:
- 1. The department of environmental quality.
- 2. The corporation commission.
- 3. The state real estate department.
- 4. The department of water resources.
- 5. The department of health services.
- 6. The office of the state fire marshal in the Arizona department of forestry and fire management.
- 7. One representative of the health department of a county having a population exceeding one million five hundred thousand persons.
- 8. One representative of the health department of a county having a population exceeding five hundred thousand but not exceeding one million five hundred thousand persons.
- 9. One member who is appointed by the director and who represents county planning and zoning departments.
- 10. One member who is appointed by the director and who represents a city or town with a population of less than ten thousand.
- 11. One member who is appointed by the director and who represents investor owned water systems.
- C. The determination of the number and appointment of representatives for the departments designated in subsection B, paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of this section shall be made by the director of the respective departments. The determination of the number and appointment of representatives of the state real estate department shall be made by the commissioner of the state real estate department. The determination of the number and appointment of representatives of the office of the state fire marshal shall be made by the



state forester. The appointment of representatives under subsection B, paragraphs 7 and 8 of this section shall be made by the director of the department of health services.

D. Additional members may be appointed at the discretion of the council. A representative from the department of environmental quality, selected by the director, shall serve as chairman of the council. The council shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often to conduct its business.

E. The council shall:

- 1. Develop public education and information programs for owners, operators and customers of water systems.
- 2. Identify programs to advise and assist owners and operators of water systems in management, accounting, engineering and other technical areas.
- 3. Integrate and coordinate information databases among member agencies.
- 4. Evaluate the statutory and regulatory authority of governmental entities regarding water systems and recommend appropriate changes.
- 5. Develop any other programs and recommendations that would benefit the owners, operators and customers of water systems and the statutory and regulatory practices of government agencies.
- 6. Identify sources of funding to accomplish the purposes of this section.
- 7. Investigate mechanisms to ensure the financial viability of new water systems before they begin operation.

(Amended by L. 2017, ch. 258,s. 47, eff. 8/9/2017. Amended by L. 2016, ch. 128,s. 123, eff. 6/30/2016.)



ARS 49-357 Joint monitoring and testing (Arizona Revised Statutes (2021 Edition))

§ 49-357. Joint monitoring and testing

The department may allow water systems that are subject to this article to cooperate in testing for and monitoring water contaminants for compliance with this article if the director determines that the water systems are located in the same general area and that the area is hydrologically connected.



§ 49-358. Water system compliance assistance program

A. The department shall establish a water system compliance assistance program to assist water systems in complying with standards imposed by federal and state law, rules and regulations. The program shall provide information and technical assistance to water systems.

B. The department may contract with a nonprofit organization which provides on-site technical assistance to small water systems and which is dedicated to preserving and enhancing water quality in Arizona.



§ 49-360. Monitoring assistance program for public water systems; fees; monitoring assistance fund; safe drinking water program fund; rules

A. The department shall establish a monitoring assistance program to assist public water systems in complying with monitoring requirements under the federal safe drinking water act (P.L. 93-523; 88 Stat. 1660; P.L. 95-190; 91 Stat. 1393; P.L. 104-182; 110 Stat. 1613; 42 United States Code sections 300f through 300j-26), as amended. The program shall provide for the collection, transportation and analysis of baseline samples from public water systems in a frequency sufficient to keep the systems in compliance with the federal safe drinking water act requirements. At a minimum, the program shall include monitoring for the following categories of contaminants:

- 1. Volatile organic chemicals.
- 2. Synthetic organic chemicals.
- 3. Inorganic chemicals except for copper and lead.
- 4. Radiochemicals.
- B. The department shall contract with one or more private parties or statewide nonprofit organizations representing water systems to implement the monitoring assistance program subject to available funding. Contracts shall be awarded for up to three years, beginning January 1, 1999. Entities with which the department contracts shall:
- 1. Provide updated monitoring schedules, developed in conjunction with the department, to participating water systems.
- 2. Take samples for participating water systems, allow for certified operators to take samples and train system personnel to take samples.
- 3. Assist participating water systems when resampling is required by the federal safe drinking water act.
- 4. Assist participating water systems to apply for and qualify for available interim monitoring relief and waivers.
- 5. Provide any other on-site technical assistance necessary to help the participating water systems comply with the monitoring requirements of the federal safe drinking water act.



ARS 49-360 Monitoring assistance program for public water systems; fees; monitoring assistance fund; safe drinking water program fund; rules (Arizona Revised Statutes (2021 Edition))

- C. Any public water systems serving more than ten thousand persons may elect to participate in the monitoring assistance program subject to the payment of the fees pursuant to subsection F of this section.
- D. The department shall use licensed environmental laboratories as defined in section 36-495 or laboratories certified or designated by the United States environmental protection agency to analyze samples collected under the monitoring assistance program. The department shall establish specific criteria for measuring contractor qualifications and performance.
- E. Each environmental laboratory that the department uses pursuant to subsection D of this section shall deliver copies of the analysis results to the water system owner, the monitoring assistance program contractor and the department.
- F. The director shall establish fees for the monitoring assistance program to be collected from all public water systems serving up to ten thousand persons. The participating water systems shall remit these fees to the department for deposit in the monitoring assistance fund.
- G. The monitoring assistance fund is established consisting of fees collected from participating public water systems pursuant to subsection F of this section. The director shall administer the fund. If the fund has a surplus after execution of the previous year's contract, any surplus in excess of two hundred thousand dollars in any year shall be used to reduce the fee for the subsequent year in a manner consistent with the program invoicing system. Monies in the fund shall be used to pay the monitoring assistance program contractors, the environmental laboratories used for the purposes of this section and administrative costs incurred by the department. Monies in the fund are exempt from lapsing pursuant to section 35-190. Interest earned on monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The allowable administrative costs of the department are limited to no more than fifteen percent of monies deposited in the fund annually or one hundred eighty-four thousand dollars, whichever is less. As used in this subsection, administrative costs include only those costs necessary to do the following:
- 1. Ensure contractor performance and quality control.
- 2. Administer the contracts.
- 3. Collect fees as provided in subsection F of this section.
- 4. Provide direct technical assistance related to the implementation of the monitoring assistance program only to the extent the department's assistance is required by this section.



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H. The safe drinking water program fund is established consisting of monies deposited in the fund pursuant to section 42-5304. The director shall administer the fund. Subject to legislative appropriation, monies in the fund shall be used to pay for the costs of programs required by this article incurred by the department. Monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. Interest earned on monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

- I. The department shall adopt rules for the monitoring assistance program.
- J. Any site visit made pursuant to this section by a monitoring assistance program contractor shall not be regarded as an inspection or investigation. Enforcement actions shall not be taken as a result of these site visits, except that this section does not affect the authority of the department to enforce this article pursuant to section 49-354.

(Amended by L. 2017, ch. 308,s. 2, eff. 8/9/2017. Rpld. 1/1/21)

