

Arsenic Facts For Consumers

INTRODUCTION

In October 2001, after approval by President Clinton and President Bush, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its decision to lower the arsenic standard for drinking water from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb. The effective date for the new standard is January 23, 2006.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEW ARSENIC STANDARD?

The purpose of the new standard is to protect public health by reducing the occurrence of carcinogenic (e.g., lung and bladder cancers) and non-carcinogenic (e.g. skin damage, circulatory disorders, etc.) diseases that can result from unhealthy levels of arsenic exposure.

WHY MUST ARIZONA ENFORCE THE NEW ARSENIC STANDARD?

The new arsenic standard is federal law and, as such, Arizona is responsible for enforcing the new standard here in our state.

WHERE DOES ARSENIC COME FROM AND HOW DOES IT GET INTO DRINKING WATER SOURCES?

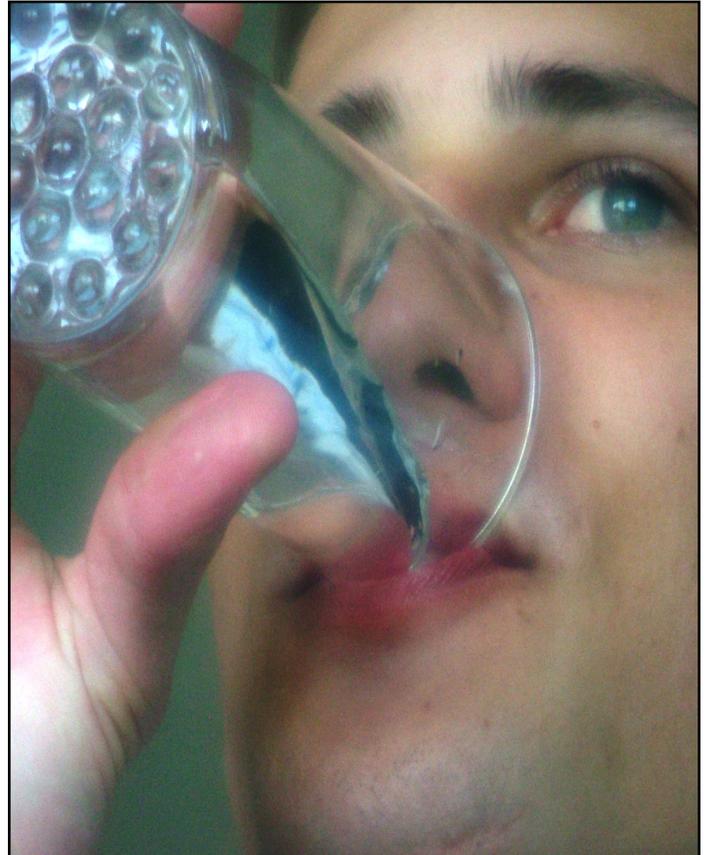
In Arizona, arsenic is naturally occurring in drinking water sources. Arsenic is considered a carcinogen, meaning that it can potentially cause cancer in humans.

WHAT HAPPENS ON JANUARY 23, 2006?

The new standard takes effect on January 23, 2006, and after that date ADEQ will review sample results to determine compliance with the new standard. ADEQ is working closely with water systems throughout the state to ensure compliance with the new standard. Drinking water systems with arsenic concentrations over 10 ppb will get a period of time to come into compliance with the new standard.

HOW MANY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS IN ARIZONA ARE IMPACTED BY THE NEW ARSENIC STANDARD?

Approximately 350 public water systems in Arizona have at least one source of water not meeting the new arsenic standard. These water systems must comply with the new standard.



WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING ARSENIC OR ANY OTHER DRINKING WATER RELATED MATTER?

ADEQ's Drinking Water Program can be reached at:

ADEQ's Drinking Water Program
1110 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 771-4644
toll free in-state at (800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4644

or visiting their Web site:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/index.html>