

ARIZONA (REGION 9)

A Snapshot of Arizona's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/assessment

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Division, Surface Water Section, together with surface water permits (individual and stormwater), standards, assessment, and ambient monitoring

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 68

Number of Causes of Impairment 131

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Pesticides
2. Metals (other than mercury)
3. Mercury
4. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
5. pH

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 5

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 73

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 10/0/2

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) unknown

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 9

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? N

Broad-Scale? (e.g., watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.) Y

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Example(s) developing alternative approaches to TMDLs; using "direct to implementation"

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$800,000

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding federal grants

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? Y

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

--implementing improvements prior to completing the TMDL where sources are easily identified, in coordination with 319(h) grants unit

--watershed scale and regional TMDLs (in-state, several watersheds)

Links to AZ TMDLs:

www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/assessment/status.html

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of flowing water
2. timing of precipitation events
3. most sources are nonpoint, difficult to characterize

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. little regulatory authority over NPSs
2. lack of active groups willing to take on projects
3. inability to address entire watershed