

Central Tucson PFAS Project Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site - January 2022

What is the Central Tucson PFAS Project (CTPP)?

In March 2020, the City of Tucson asked the State of Arizona for assistance in stopping PFAS in groundwater from reaching the central drinking water wellfield located downgradient of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The central wellfield serves as the primary drinking water source for more than 65,000 people year-round, as the secondary drinking water supply for 600,000 people year-round, and as a key source for Tucson's future drinking water supply.

ADEQ dedicated \$3.3M from the limited state Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund to address the City of Tucson's request to prevent PFAS from impacting additional drinking water supply wells.

ADEQ completed a site characterization work plan in June 2020, began field activities in October 2020, and conducted and completed the accelerated investigation and characterized the PFAS-impacted groundwater with installation of seven monitoring wells. ADEQ then designed and completed construction of the demonstration remedy with assistance from Tucson Water. The demonstration system, located at City of Tucson supply well C-007A, began operating in December 2021. The U.S. Air Force is reimbursing ADEQ for a portion of the costs under the terms of an Environmental Services Agreement between ADEQ and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center reached in fall 2021.



Approximate area of CTPP investigation and remediation activities

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a very large group of thousands of chemicals that have been used widely in applications such as firefighting foams, industrial processes, and consumer products. Several PFAS have been identified as being potentially harmful to human health. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has already issued a drinking water health advisory for two of these compounds: PFOA and PFOS. The agency is expected to define Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS within the next two years.

Why is a demonstration treatment system needed?

The demonstration treatment system will have a number of immediate benefits. Operating the system removes PFAS from the groundwater and helps to limit the movement of PFAS toward the central wellfield. The system will also demonstrate the effectiveness of ion exchange treatment technology and provide a platform to evaluate other technologies if needed.

Is my drinking water safe? Yes! If you receive water from Tucson Water, your drinking water meets federal and state drinking water standards. ADEQ is acting now to protect the groundwater for future use. Learn more about Tucson's drinking water at tucsonaz.gov/water.

How does the demonstration treatment system work?

The demonstration treatment system uses a former Tucson Water supply well to pump contaminated water from the aquifer at about 250 gallons per minute or as much as 360,000 gallons per day. The contaminated water passes through two ion-exchange treatment vessels where all PFAS are removed. The vessels contain an engineered material that strongly binds the PFAS and removes them from the water. The clean water is currently discharged to a City of Tucson storm sewer and beneficial uses for the water are being considered.



PFAS-free treated water being discharged from the Central Tucson PFAS Project Demonstration Treatment System.

What happens next?

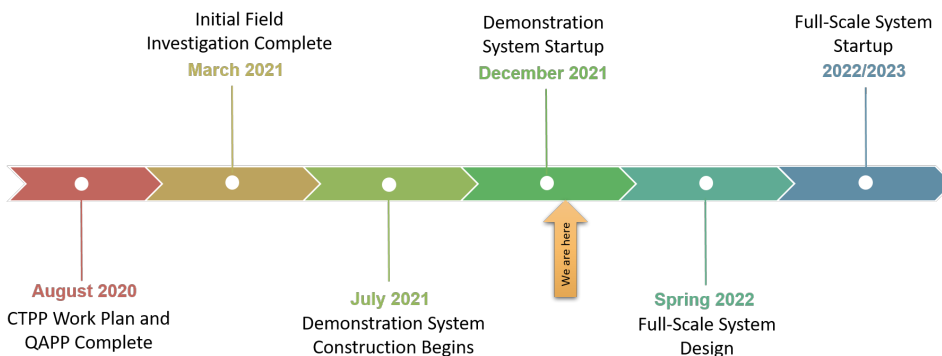
ADEQ is already working to complete a full-scale groundwater treatment remedy that will prevent PFAS from impacting any additional wells. The information learned from the demonstration remedy will be used to make the full-scale remedy as effective as possible.

Where can I learn more?

Visit ADEQ’s website for PFAS project details and other resources:

- bit.ly/ADEQCTPP
- azdeq.gov/WQARF
- azdeq.gov/pfas-resources
- bit.ly/AZpfasNews

Central Tucson PFAS Project Schedule



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