



How ADEQ Engages with Communities

August 2025



Community Engagement: The Missing Piece of the Puzzle

Our Mission and Vision

To protect and enhance public health and the environment in Arizona. Through consistent, science-based environmental regulation; and **clear, equitable engagement and communication**; With integrity, respect, and the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency.



What is Community Engagement?



- Begins at the start of the project
- Continues seeking input before each milestone decision
- Provides feedback after each phase

ADEQ's Definition...

Community engagement is an **intentional, strategic and ongoing process** which ensures people who are affected by a decision are involved in the decision-making process.

What's in it for ADEQ?

Better Decisions

Builds Trust & Satisfaction

**Improves People
Awareness**

Sustainable

Personal Satisfaction

Listening to new ideas can lead to more innovative decisions

People will trust ADEQ more and eventually will lead to less controversy and comment

People will become more knowledgeable about the environment and the work ADEQ does to protect it

Increases likelihood that permit decision will be accepted and implemented

One is able to make a difference as projects get implemented

ADEQ Internal Guide to Community Programs



Clear, Equitable Engagement & Communication

This Engagement Resource Center contains everything you might need to create and implement your engagement plan as well as participate in ADEQ events and activities.



[Creating an
Engagement
Plan](#)



[Events and
Volunteer
Opportunities](#)



[Tips, Guidance
and Training](#)



[Community,
Science and
K-12
Education](#)

Clear, Equitable Engagement & Communication

STEP 1



**Go / No Go
Assessment**
Is engagement
needed?



STEP 2



**CIE
Consultation**
Initial meeting
with CIE.



STEP 3



**Situation
Assessment**
Research to
determine the
context and
scope.



STEP 4



Planning
Based on the
research
develop a
customized
plan.



STEP 5



Implementation
Implement the
engagement and
communication
strategy.



STEP 6



After Action
Evaluation and
after action
report to close
out the
project.

Go, No Go Checklist

| To be completed by project manager and approved by leadership. | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Project Name: | | | |
| Division/Unit: | | | |
| Project Manager Name: <i>(Person completing this form)</i> | | | |
| Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. | Agree | Disagree | Comments |
| The decision has already been made and there is no opportunity for reconsideration or change of direction. | | | |
| The resulting decision will have inconsequential or negligible impacts on the public, community and stakeholders. | | | |
| The primary goal is to inform and educate participants about programs and services. | | | |
| Stakeholders, the public, Tribal Nations, border program and/or communities are aware of the project and are not concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed decision. | | | |
| There is a known answer with limited possible paths or options open to the agency. | | | |
| There are no known environmental justice concerns. | | | |
| No additional information or input from stakeholders and/or the community is needed to make a sustainable decision. | | | |
| There has been a history or pattern of engagement on similar topics that validate a lack of interest in this project. | | | |
| Determination | | | |
| If you agreed with all of the statements above, you do not need to create an engagement plan. If you disagreed with more than 1 statement, please consult with CIE on whether engagement is needed. If you won't be doing engagement, you are encouraged to | | | |



Facilities of Interest Pages & Permits in Process Page

— WATER QUALITY PERMIT OF INTEREST

Hermosa Project — South32 Hermosa Inc.

Revised On: Feb. 7th, 2025 - 01:19 pm

This permit of interest online resource provides interested parties easy access to information about the Hermosa Project, owned by South32 Hermosa Inc., formerly Arizona Minerals Inc. (AMI).

Facility Information

The Hermosa Project, owned and operated by South32 Hermosa Inc., is located approximately five miles south of the Town of Patagonia, Arizona in Santa Cruz County.

Location

749 Harshaw Road, Patagonia, Arizona 85624

Permitting

Aquifer Protection Program Permitting Significant Amendment

On Feb. 6, 2025, ADEQ issued a significant amendment to the Aquifer Protection Program (APP) Permit for South32 Hermosa Inc.:

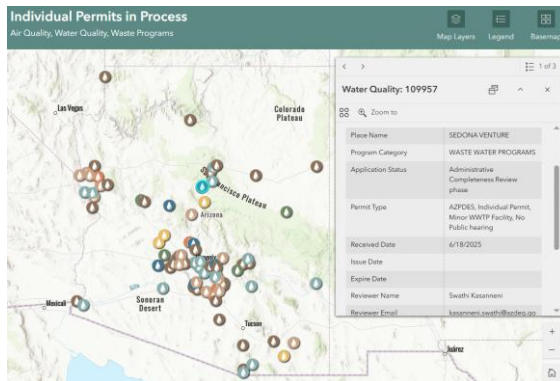
— ADEQ PERMITTING

Individual Permits in Process (PIP) Map and Report

Revised On: Jul. 8th, 2025 - 05:47 am

As part of ADEQ's ongoing commitment to increase transparency about its environmental permitting activities and to better serve Arizonans and the regulated community, everyone can conveniently get information about the most complex environmental permits ADEQ is working on in their neighborhood and statewide using the Individual Permits in Process (PIP) interactive map and reporting tool. The PIP map provides the status of all individual permits in process with the agency across all divisions – Air Quality, Waste Programs and Water Quality.

- Arizonans can use these tools online, 24/7, to learn about facilities and environmental permitting using a computer or a smartphone.
- Individual permit applicants can easily track the progress of their application and know which ADEQ employee to contact directly with permitting questions.



Does it Work?

Lessons Learned:

- Communities appreciate feeling heard
- Concerns often outside ADEQ authority
- Short term - can increase project timeframes and comments on projects
- Long term - helps educate on ADEQ scope and legal authority
- Can help avoid costly appeals and litigation
- Many people will not change their opinions regardless of engagement





Thank You!

Questions?

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