

# Agenda

- Reminiscing
- Reviewing Selected Programs
- My Vision of the Future

# Memory Lane

Arizona Administrative CODE www.azsos.gov

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NATIONAL

WASTEWAT

# Meeting Agenda/Summary

Meeting Water Quality Division: Onsite Wastewater Advisory Committee (OWAC)

Date Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Start / End Time 9:00 am - 11:00 am (MST)

Location Google Meets link in calendar invite meet.google.com/wrz-gshi-tdv

MEMBERS

Documents

- Dave <u>Bartholomew\_BWS</u> Inc, Chair
- Mike Stidham, EZ Treat, Vice Chair
- Aline Parker-Eaton, Northern Arizona Inspection
- Brian Knisley, Maricopa County
  - ADEQ STAFF
- Trevor Baggiore, Water Quality Division Director
- Randall Matas, Water Quality Division Deputy
- · Kyle Uptergrove, Unit Manager
- JW Thompson, Environmental Engineering Specialist III
- Natalie Kilker, Legal Specialist

- Crystal McKee, Mohave County
- Haiden LaFoy, Greenlee County
- Jeremy Griffin, Apollo Drain and Septic Services
- Kevin Sherman, SeptiTech
- Raymond Morgan, Trainer
- Linneth Lopez, Environmental Engineering Specialist III
- Ali Baadiyan, Environmental Engineer Specialist III
- Luke Peterson, Environmental Engineer Specialist III
- David Lelsz, Program Manager

- Kitt Farrell-Poe, University of Arizona
- Nicholas Noble, Orenco
- Dan Borns, Project Manager
- Mannie Rehm Bowler, Liaison
- Laura Carusona, Manager

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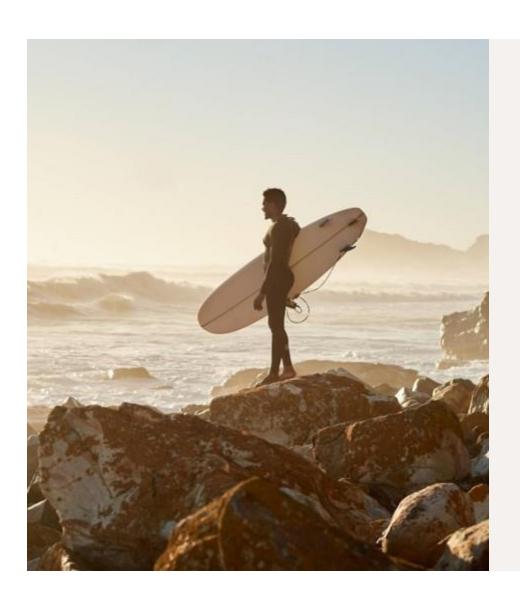
IRONMENTAL QUALITY

Located in ShareFile - https://azdeq.sharefile.com/

# Reviewing Selected Programs

- Transfer of OwnershipInspection
- Installation
- Soil & Site Evaluation
- Design
- O&M





# Transfer of Ownership Inspection Program



#### Inspection Program

#### Good

- Buyer disclosure
- Protection of human and environmental health and property values
- Finding cesspools
- Some issues have been brought to light
- Because training brought by NAWT, continuing ed required

### Inspection Program

#### Bad

- Inspection begins at septic tank misses delivery/distribution issues to tank
- Not all reports are shared with the Counties
- Not all real estate agents understand the value of a good inspection
- No continuing ed required in Code

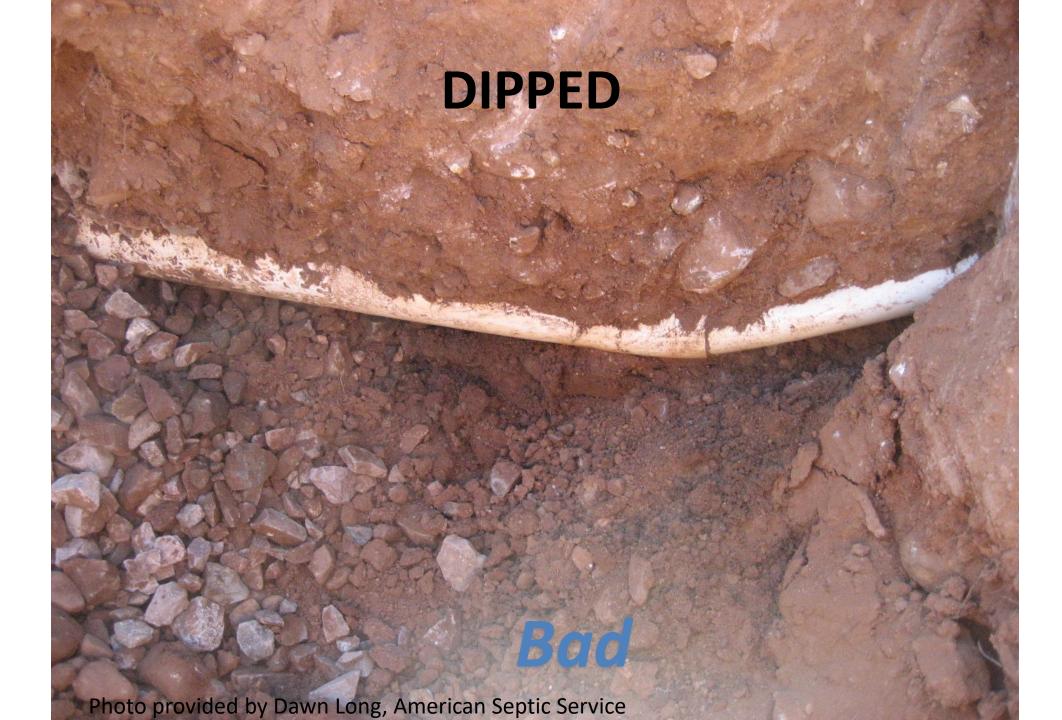
#### Ugly

No oversight, Code relies on litigation → difficult to get rid of the bad apples

















# Installation

#### Installation

#### Good

- Watertight tank and connections installed piping
- Properly installed tanks (bedding and level)
- Service accessibility (maintenance)
- 2 circuits, waterproof connections

#### Bad or Ugly

- Watertightness test does not include riser
- Anyone can install conventional system
- No training or measure of competence required



# Soil & Site Evaluation

# Soil & Site Evaluation Program

#### Good

Code requires training for no licensed evaluators

 Moving towards a soil evaluation process & using perc tests as back up or furth info



# Soil & Site Evaluation Program

#### Bad or Ugly

- By code, some evaluators are not required to take a course, thus no way to measure their competency
- One & done! No continuing education
- Arizona's perc test is unique & it's not aligned with soil evaluation method







# Design

# Design

#### Good

- Ensures well-oxygenated soil and unsaturated flow
- Designs for maintenance
  - Effluent screens
- Requires operating manuals
- Requires observation ports for drainfield

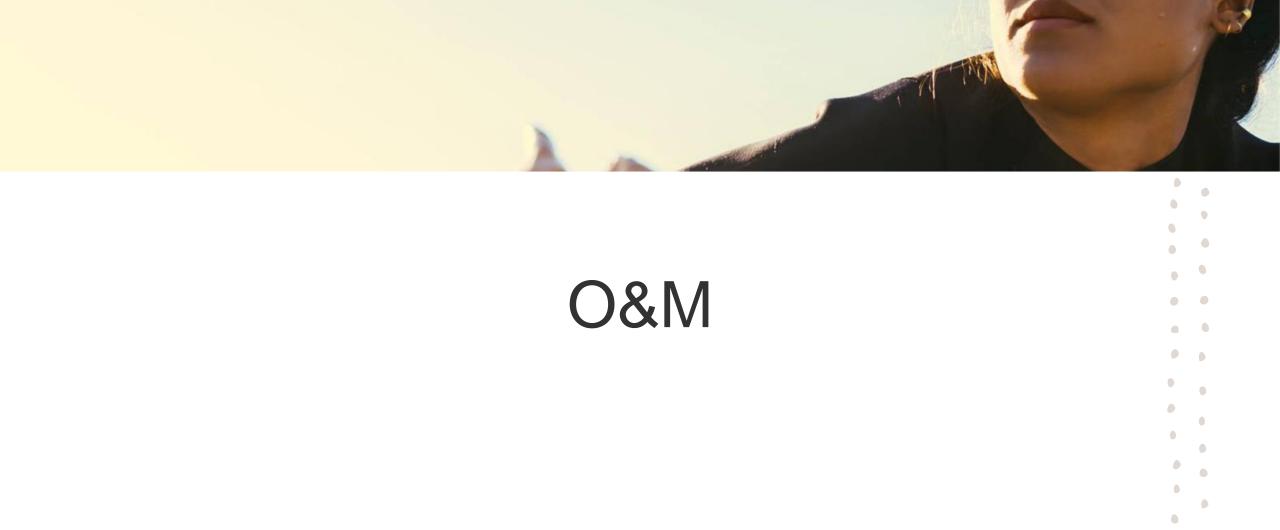


# Design Program

#### Bad or Ugly

- Seepage pits put into highly variable and fast-draining soils at a very deep depth where little or no oxygen is typically available
- No trainings required & no competencies measured
- Code requires limits of contaminates delivered to native soil with no monitoring







# O&M

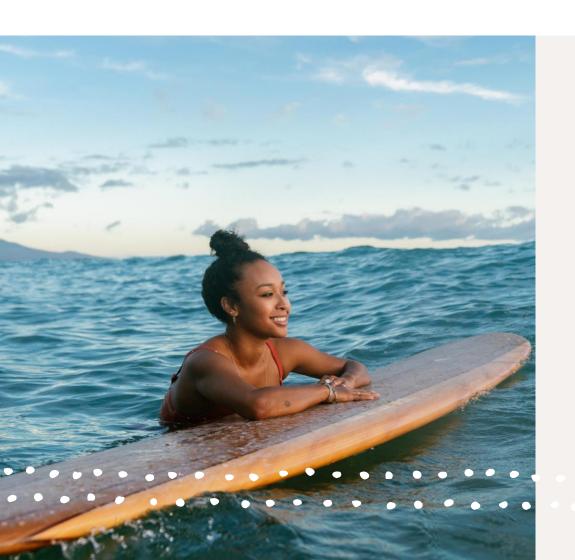
#### Good

• O&M required for all systems

# Bad or Ugly

- No training required, no competencies measured
- No oversight to ensure accomplished





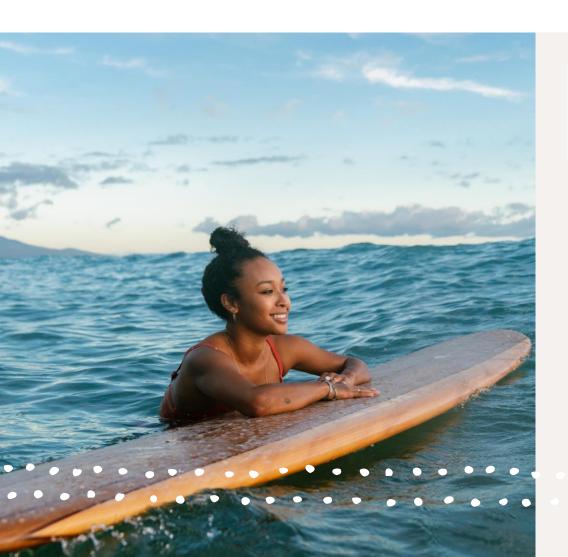














#### **Professionalism**

- Need to decide what it looks like for all sectors
- Could adapt "journeyman" approach
- Most professions require continuing education & we need it too



#### Cooperation

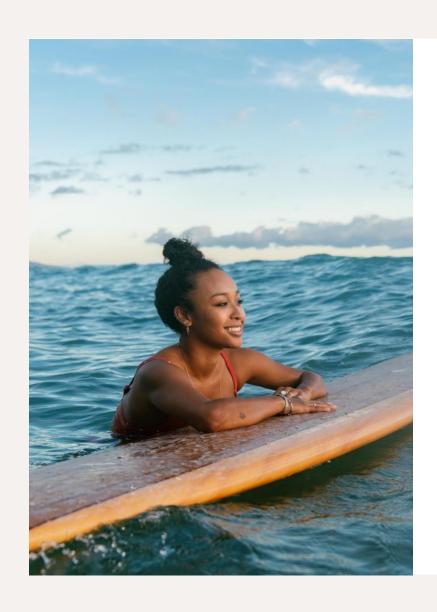
State - Counties - AzOWRA - ACDEHSA - Universities - Stakeholders



#### **Education for All**

- Required training for all
- Integrated training program
  - Need-to-know → design training class based on need-to-know → exam based on need-to-know
- Continuing education

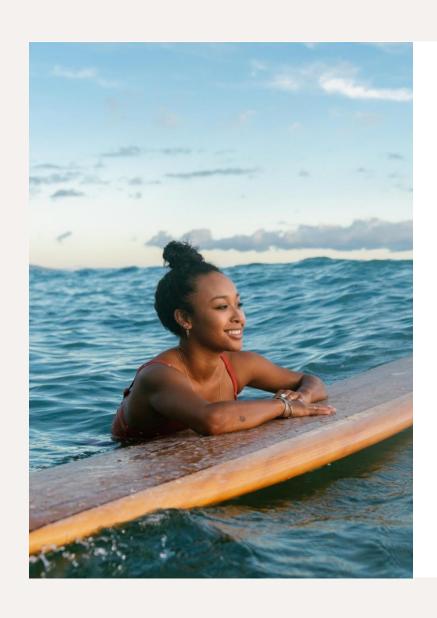






#### **Oversight**

- All Transfer of Ownership Inspection forms need to go to the Counties
- Requiring Monitoring
- @ County or/and State level(s)
- State grant program to remediate cesspools & broken systems for under-resourced individuals



# My Vision of the Future Code Changes

- Pressure distribution and sidewall depth
- Rethinking soil treatment, seepage pits
- Advancing new technologies
- Removing Total Coliforms as a performance indicator
- Requiring training, continuing education for all practitioners
- O&M reporting for all systems; frequency is a function of the complexity of the system
- Integrating decentralized wastewater treatment systems into regional water management plans

# Thank you

Kitt Farrell-Poe

Professor Emerita, University of Arizona

kittfp@arizona.edu

https://extension.arizona.edu/onsite-wastewater

