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**Contact: Regina Lynde  
602-240-6878 ext. 1212**

## **Arizona Water Company's Bisbee and Pinetop Lakes Systems Named Environmental Partners by Department of Environmental Quality**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has named two Arizona Water Company (AWC) water systems to the Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP), Bronze Level. The VESP recognizes Arizona businesses and other organizations that have a good history of environmental compliance and strive to go beyond what is required to protect public health and the environment, according ADEQ.

The Bronze Level recognizes organizations that demonstrate strong environmental compliance for the past three years, and both the Bisbee and Pinetop Lakes water systems clearly demonstrate environmental excellence and leadership in drinking water operations, according to the ADEQ.

As a result, both water systems will be listed on the VESP webpage and become eligible for incentives that will support environmental programs, help reduce costs, and spur innovation.

“Arizona Water Company is very pleased to be recognized for its work to protect the environment and our customers,” said Fred Schneider, president of the company.

“Our managers and staff in both water systems work very hard to keep the system working the way it should, and environmental programs are a high priority.”

The Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP) recognizes and awards incentives to Arizona businesses and other organizations that have a good history of environmental compliance and strive to go beyond what is legally required to protect public health and the environment, according ADEQ.

“People ask us questions all the time about the quality of the water, where it comes from or about the environment,” said Lee Hetrick, Division Manager of the Lakeside and Pinetop-Lakes water systems. “We really appreciate the ADEQ for recognizing our employees and our Company.”

Arizona Water Company serves more than 250,000 Arizonans in 25 different water systems that stretch from the Bisbee-Sierra Vista area in the south to Sedona in the north. The Company has been operating in the state for 68 years.

“Our customers expect a lot, and we meet those expectations, especially when it comes to drinking water quality and the environment,” said Frank Cabello, Division Manager of the Cochise Division. “It’s nice to know that the state recognizes our efforts.”

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