
Waters of the U.S. Update

The 2015 Clean Water Rule was an effort to provide clarity regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction; however, many stakeholders expressed concerns with the final 2015 rule. The EPA and US Army Corp of Engineers are currently embarking on a new effort to define and provide clarity to the rule. Over the past several months input on a new definition of waters of the U.S. has been requested from States, Governors and various stakeholders. Until a new rule is established, guidance for current rule implementation can be found on the EPA's [website](#).



Inspections of Commercial & Industrial Facilities

The City of Tempe Environmental Compliance Staff conduct hundreds of multi-media inspections each year to confirm that Federal, State and [Tempe City Code](#) (Pretreatment, Stormwater, Cross Connection Control) requirements are being met. Inspections are conducted at businesses (industrial, automotive, restaurants, or others that may be a source of pollutants) to look for potential impacts from the facility on the sewage system, drinking water system via cross connection, or the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). During site visits, the inspector will review processes and applicable records at the facility and discuss any concerns. There are nearly 2,000 businesses on the City's inventory. These inspections help businesses maintain compliance, which if not achieved could result in harm to public infrastructure, and the environment as well as civil and/or criminal enforcement action. A list of EPA criminal enforcement actions is available [online](#). Questions about the inspection program can be directed to Tempe Environmental Services Section (480) 350-2678.

Preventive measures

Best management practices (BMP's) reduce the exposure of materials to stormwater. Good housekeeping and spill prevention practices limit the amount of pollutants available to be picked up by stormwater, thus reducing contaminated storm water runoff. Such preventive measures are very cost-effective ways to manage stormwater runoff. Tempe's website maintains a list of stormwater tips for businesses, restaurants, and residents on how to "Be Stormwater Smart" and assist Tempe in reducing pollutants in stormwater.

Find tips at tempe.gov/stormwater and remember...

