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Steve Owens, Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director Owens:

As you know, many of Arizona's regulated water providers are struggling to meet the EPA's 10 ppb arsenic standard by the January 23, 2006 deadline. It is troubling that most of Arizona's private water companies have yet to take action on this matter. Their inaction, however, is balanced by valid concerns about different treatment options, and ultimately, the associated costs to the water companies and their ratepayers.

I am very interested in exploring different water treatment options for communities in our state with arsenic levels in excess of 10 ppb. I would like to request that you, and your staff, examine some of these treatment options being developed by public and private water companies. Among them is the coal ash technology being tested by Berkeley Laboratories in California. Recently, the California Energy Commission awarded a $250,000 grant to the lab to determine whether a coal ash purification method being developed there could be deployed by municipal water providers in California.

Last week, I was invited to attend a town hall meeting in Tubac with residents of the community and representatives of their water utility, Arizona American Water. The overwhelming majority of attendees at the meeting indicated a preference for installing POU systems to help comply with the new standard of 10 ppb. Can you tell me whether ADEQ and EPA have determined if these systems can be installed in residences to help comply with the January 23, 2006 deadline?

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Kris Mayes
Commissioner

cc: Chairman Jeff Hatch-Miller
Commissioner William A. Mundell
Commissioner Marc Spitzer
Commissioner Mike Gleason
Ernest Johnson
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