

Final Rulemaking to Temporarily Delay Pinal AMA Extinguishment Credit Reduction

The Department has amended the Assured Water Supply (AWS) Rules for the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA) to temporarily delay the schedule for annually reducing the allocation factor used to calculate credits for the extinguishment of grandfathered groundwater rights in AMA. The rule amendment became effective on December 3, 2013.

Prior to the rule amendments, the AWS Rules for the Pinal AMA contained a schedule for gradually reducing the allocation factor each year beginning on January 1, 2014, until the allocation factor became zero on January 1, 2055. New rule A.A.C. R12-15-725.01 delays, by five years, each annual reduction in the allocation factor. A.A.C. R12-15-725.01 will automatically repeal effective September 15, 2014, at which time the current reduction schedule will become effective again. This temporary delay in the reduction schedule will allow water users and other interested parties in the Pinal AMA to work together to examine conditions within the AMA and offer alternatives for meeting the Pinal AMA's management goal, which could include making the 5-year delay permanent, or an alternative solution, through another rulemaking proceeding. Click [here](#) to view the Notice of Final Rulemaking filed with the Secretary of State's Office, which shows the rule amendments.