CASE STUDY - PEEPLES VALLEY

When Cactus State acquired the Peeples Valley Water Co. in May 2023, the more than 650 residents of this small Central Arizona community were relying on a groundwater system with a long and troubled compliance history. Between 1998 and 2019 alone, the system recorded **more than 130 drinking water violations**. These included 85 chlorine violations, 22 coliform violations, 15 nitrate violations, 5 lead and copper violations, 2 E. coli violations, and 2 disinfection byproduct violations, along with individual violations for synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Monitoring and reporting violations continued right up until Cactus State took ownership. The system's physical condition reflected that history. Only two of its three wells were in service, and the pressurization system was not working properly. The storage tank yard was overgrown, and the main pump house had slip, trip, and fall hazards.

Cactus State began by making the site safe, secure, and visible to operators. Crews cleared the overgrowth from the tank yard and well sites and posted the required regulatory signage identifying the wells. They upgraded the pump house with safety equipment to remove hazards to the people who operate and maintain the system. Cactus State also **installed remote monitoring hardware**, which gives operators continuous oversight of the system. When a potential problem appears, the system sends an alert right away, so technicians can respond quickly, often before customers notice anything.

With those basics in place, Cactus State turned to long-term reliability. Aging mechanical piping was replaced, which **resolved the system's pressure problems** and protects water quality, flow, and continuity of service. **Two new permanent backup generators,** installed at the tank site and main well site, keep water flowing during power outages. Together with the system's two active wells, these upgrades provide an adequate supply of quality water to meet the community's demands.

The results are clear. **Since Cactus State took ownership in May 2023, Peeples Valley has not had a single water quality violation.** A system that was cited again and again for more than two decades now consistently meets the safe drinking water standards set by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. To make this possible, Cactus State has **invested nearly a million ($992,184.85) to acquire, upgrade, and operate the Peeples Valley system.** That investment has gone toward replacing critical infrastructure, restoring well capacity, and enhancing the safety, security, and reliability of the water customers depend on every day.

Bringing Peeples Valley into compliance was the first step, and keeping it there is an ongoing commitment. We will continue to provide routine water quality testing, preventive maintenance, and 24/7 monitoring of the system through certified operators. We will keep investing in the infrastructure as needs arise so that problems are addressed early, before they can affect service. *Our goal is simple: residents of Peeples Valley should never again have to question whether the water coming from their tap is safe.*



