



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

December 31, 2014

**The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Announces that the Draft 2014 Integrated Report,
Water Quality in Oklahoma, is Available for Review**

The 30-day Public Comment Period Begins on December 31, 2014

**A Public Meeting has been Scheduled to Discuss the
Revisions at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

**The Public Comment Period Ends at
4:30 PM on Monday, February 2, 2015**

PURPOSE

The [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) has prepared the draft **2014 Integrated Report** (aka *Water Quality in Oklahoma*). This Notice is to inform the public about:

- The Integrated Report
- The Public Meeting
- How to provide feedback regarding the draft Integrated Report
- How to get additional information

WHAT IS THE “INTEGRATED REPORT”?

The Integrated Report combines into one document two of the reporting requirements under the [Federal Clean Water Act \(CWA\)](#): Section 305(b) [Surface Water Quality Assessment] and Section 303(d) [List of Impaired Waters]. Under EPA’s Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations ([40 CFR 130](#)), states are required to develop [Water Quality Standards](#) (WQS) [[40 CFR 130.3](#)] and have

[designated beneficial uses](#) assigned to all waterbodies. The designated uses of water are for things such as drinking, fishing, swimming, recreation, aesthetics, and agriculture. The designated beneficial uses for all Oklahoma waterbodies are listed in Appendix A of Oklahoma's WQS.

Every two years, all waterbodies in Oklahoma are assessed to see if they are meeting their designated beneficial uses as required under 305(b) of the CWA. The methods used to develop the Integrated Report are described in a document entitled the [Continuing Planning Process](#) (CPP) which is required by EPA ([40 CFR 130.5](#)). One goal of the CPP is to provide an objective and scientifically sound waterbody assessment listing methodology. The CPP includes guidelines of how waterbodies are placed into one of five categories depending how well their designated uses are attained. The proposed placement of Oklahoma waterbodies into these categories based on their assessment can be found in Appendix B (*Comprehensive Waterbody Assessment*) of the draft 2014 Integrated Report.

Waterbodies that don't meet their designated beneficial uses are considered to be "impaired" and placed on a list as required by 303(d) of the CWA. That is why the list of impaired waterbodies is often referred to as the "303(d) List". DEQ's *303(d) List of Impaired Waters* is found in Appendix C of the draft 2014 Integrated Report.

In addition to assessing all waterbodies and listing impaired ones, the Integrated Report provides an effective tool for maintaining high quality waters and improving the quality of waters that do not attain water quality standards. Based on the WQS, DEQ develops plans with goals and pollution control targets for improving water quality in impaired waterbodies. The plan to improve water quality for impaired waterbodies is accomplished by establishing limits known as [Total Maximum Daily Loads \(TMDLs\)](#) for each pollutant exceeding the standards. TMDLs set levels for pollutants that allow waterbodies to achieve their WQS for beneficial uses. Oklahoma TMDL reports can be found at the following DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/tmdl/index.html>.

PUBLIC MEETING

DEQ will hold an informal Public Meeting regarding the draft 2014 Integrated Report, (*Water Quality in Oklahoma*). The meeting will consist of a short presentation, an informal question and answer session (staff from DEQ and other involved State agencies will be on hand to address any questions), and an opportunity to make and/or submit official public comments for the record. The Public Meeting will be held:

3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2015
Department of Environmental Quality
1st Floor Multipurpose Room
707 North Robinson (6th and Robinson)
Oklahoma City, OK

(Map to DEQ can be found here: <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/mainlinks/map2deq.pdf>)

HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT

DEQ invites your comments. This is a draft document and is subject to change based on comments received during the public participation process. All official comments for the record must be submitted either in writing or by e-mail before the end of the comment period or orally at the Public Meeting. For clarity, written comments are preferred. DEQ will prepare a responsiveness summary addressing all comments received. Then the 2014 Integrated Report will be modified, if needed, and submitted to EPA for final approval.

The comment period will be open for 30 days. **In order for comments to be considered, they must be received before 4:30 PM on February 2, 2015.** If you have any comments regarding the draft 2014 Integrated Report, please submit your comments in writing to:

Joe A. Long, Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
E-mail: Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov

HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

- Information about Oklahoma's Integrated Water Quality Assessment and the draft 2014 Integrated Report can be found at the following DEQ website: www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnw/305b_303d/index.html.
- A printed copy may be viewed at the DEQ office in Oklahoma City. Printed copies may be purchased from the DEQ OKC office, with advanced notice, at a cost of \$70.00. There is no charge for an electronic copy of the report as long as you send in a blank writable Compact Disk and a PREPAID return postage mailer along with your request.
- For further information, contact Joe Long at (405) 702-8198 or joe.long@deq.ok.gov.



You are receiving this notice because you are either on DEQ's list to receive all public notices, or you requested notices about the Integrated Report. If you are receiving this notice in error, are getting multiple notices, or do not want to receive future notices, please let us know. In addition to the Integrated Report, DEQ's Watershed Planning & Stormwater Permitting Section sends out public notices about proposed changes in Waste Load Allocations (208s), TMDLs, 401 Certification requests, 404 projects, stormwater permits, and the CPP.

If you would like to receive any or all of these public notices via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if you want to receive notices for the entire State or just for your [watershed](#). **By receiving PDF public notices via e-mail, you will help save money and the environment by reducing the amount of paper we use to mail them.** In addition to helping the environment, you will be able to click on helpful FYI hyperlinks.



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