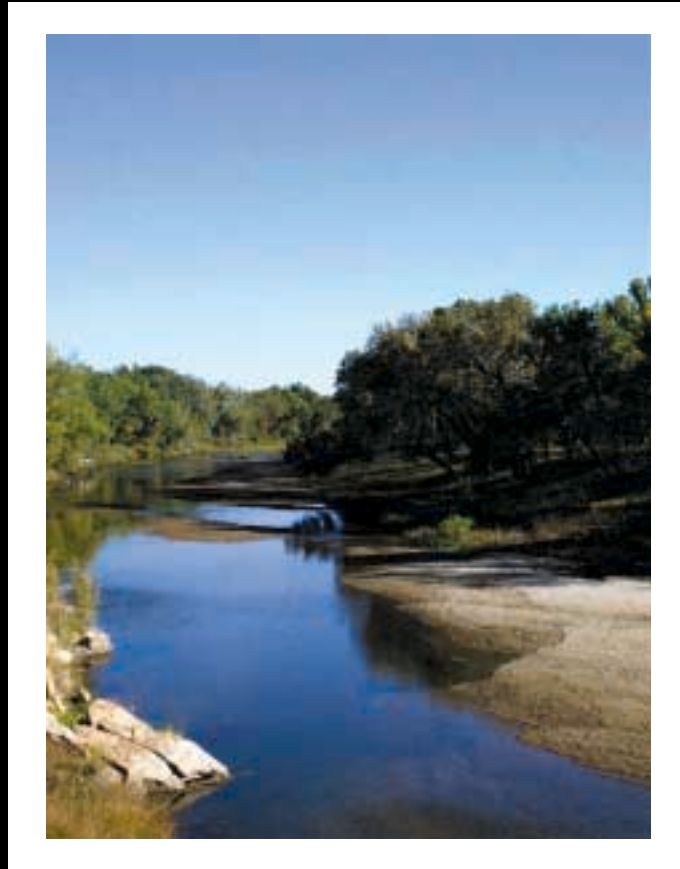


# Water Quality



Photograph of the Cimarron River, Northwest of Boise City  
in Cimarron County  
by Hal Cantwell

## WATER QUALITY

The Water Quality Division is responsible for administering portions of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and applicable sections of the state Water Pollution Control statutes to complement a statewide program of water quality management.

## PERMITTING, INSPECTION AND MONITORING

### Permitting

The division is responsible for the drafting and issuing of all required wastewater permits and administering pretreatment, toxics and storm water programs. It also is responsible for the development of general permits for facilities with similar processes that could be authorized to construct or operate under a single permit. A general permit for storm water discharge from construction activities was issued in February 1999. A general permit for hydrostatic test wastewater discharge has been drafted and sent out for public comment. A general permit for aquaculture (fish farms) activity discharge will be drafted in FY2000. A general discharge permit for municipal wastewater lagoons has been drafted and will be finalized in the first quarter of fiscal year 2000.

The Water Quality Division reviews and processes all plans and specifications for the construction of drinking water and municipal wastewater facilities and line extensions. The division also is responsible for review and maintenance of sludge management plans for the proper disposal or beneficial reuse of sludge, a by-product of water and wastewater systems.

## Permit Administration

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Water Quality Permitting					
Construction Applications/Permits Issued					
Public Water Supply Received	190	172	155	205	722
Public Water Supply Issued	202	149	140	198	689
Municipal Wastewater Received	155	115	120	165	555
Municipal Wastewater Issued	161	96	95	120	472
Municipal Wastewater Applications/Permits Issued					
Discharge Applications Received	1	18	7	2	28
Discharge Permits Issued	16	13	10	13	52
Industrial Wastewater Applications/ Individual Permits Issued					
Applications Received	35	12	4	5	56
Permits Issued	24	26	16	12	78
Storm water					
Construction Authorization Processed	92	93	114	294	593
Multi-Sector Industrial Authorization Processed	100	95	159	88	442
Other Industrial General Permits					
Applications Received	30	22	5	7	64
Authorization Issued	16	27	6	17	66
Sludge Management Applications/Plans Approved					
Applications Received	2	2	6	4	14
Plans Approved	0	2	4	3	9
Septic Tanks					
Septic Tank Cleaner New Applications	2	6	6	7	21
Septic Tank Cleaner Renewal App. Installers (from ECLS)	44	17	335	145	541
Installers (from ECLS)	42				42
Total Permits Issuance > Timelines	0	0	0	0	0
Total Permit Protest Hearings	0	0	0	0	0

### Water Quality's FY99 Permitting Activity

- 1,277 construction permit applications received and 1,161 permits issued
- 84 discharge permit applications received and 130 permits issued
- 657 general permit authorizations received and 508 authorizations issued
- 14 sludge management applications received and nine plans approved

## Inspection

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Public Water Supply					
Monitoring Inspections (from ECLS)	501	570	327	385	1,783
Municipal Wastewater					
Monitoring Inspections (from ECLS)	493	396	283	162	1,334
Pretreatment Compliance	1	1	10	12	24
Compliance Evaluation Inspections	4	9	10	38	61
Industrial Wastewater					
Monitoring Inspections (from ECLS)	120	56	16	0	192
Compliance Evaluation Inspections	2	5	5	12	24
Septic Tank Cleaners					
Monitoring Inspections (from ECLS)					224

## Inspection

The Water Quality Division conducts annual compliance inspections of all major municipal and industrial wastewater discharge facilities and all public water supplies in Oklahoma. These inspections ensure compliance with the DEQ permit, rules or statutes.

The Water Quality staff inspected 1,783 public water supply facilities and 1,635 wastewater facilities in FY99. Also, some minor sector facilities and other minors of special interest were inspected. Approximately ten percent of the inspections were performed jointly with EPA, with DEQ's Water Quality Division as the lead entity. Facilities may be inspected more than once during the year.

Staff also investigated and resolved a total of 185 environmental complaints under the Water Quality Division's jurisdiction. There were 99 wastewater complaints, 60 public water supply complaints, 15 storm water complaints, 10 operator certification complaints and one construction complaint.

## Compliance Monitoring

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Compliance Monitoring					
Industrial/Municipal Wastewater	1	0	9	5	15

## Compliance Monitoring

As the EPA designated primary entity for public water supplies, the DEQ's Water Quality Division currently oversees 1,683 public water supply systems within the state. These systems serve 3.4 million customers a year. The Water Quality Division is responsible for providing technical assistance and ensuring that all public water supply systems are in compliance with state and federal regulations, thus ensuring safe drinking water supplies to the public. A comparison of compliance data for 1998 and 1999 for regulated systems indicates that there has been an overall decrease in incidents for reportable non-compliance of 17 percent.

The Water Quality Division received delegation from EPA to administer the Clean Water Act, which regulates municipal and industrial wastewater discharge facilities in Oklahoma. The administration of this program involves routine permit compliance monitoring and inspections, technical assistance to the facility and, as necessary, appropriate enforcement actions to ensure compliance with state and

federal regulations and to protect the waters of the state. In Oklahoma, the Water Quality Division regulates 1,227 wastewater discharge systems and places a priority on monitoring the 92 major municipal and industrial wastewater discharge facilities. During FY99, 219 permit effluent violations were reported through the discharge monitoring reports the facilities are required to provide to the Water Quality Division monthly. The Water Quality Division responds to these violations with an enforcement action. Fifteen enforcement actions resulted from these violations.

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

### Enforcement Administration

The Water Quality Division is responsible for providing technical assistance and ensuring that Oklahoma's drinking water and wastewater discharge systems are in compliance with state and federal regulations. In some cases, it becomes necessary to issue enforcement actions to cause the facility to return to compliance.

The Water Quality Division uses administrative enforcement orders for public water supply and municipal and industrial water pollution control to ensure the rules and permits of Oklahoma are properly implemented. Under agreement with EPA, the Water Quality Division initiates and escalates informal and formal enforcement actions in a timely and appropriate manner against facilities in non-compliance status as well as assessing and collecting penalties for chronic violations. These actions outline the appropriate steps for facilities to take to come into compliance.

In FY99, the Water Quality Division issued 14 Boil Advisories and 205 enforcement orders for public water supply violations. There were a total of 151 enforcement orders issued for wastewater violations. If a facility violates the terms of the enforcement order, fines can be imposed.

## Enforcement Administration

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Public Water Supply					
Boil Advisories	4	6	0	4	14
Notices of Violation	57	49	40	42	188
Consent / Final Orders	4	5	3	5	17
Fines Paid (in thousands)	0	0	0	0	0
Municipal Wastewater					
Notices of Violation	10	20	12	16	58
Consent / Final Orders	9	17	19	14	59
Fines Paid (in thousands)	4	27	20	0	51
Industrial Wastewater					
Notices of Violation	1	6	10	3	20
Consent / Final Orders	2	1	2	1	6
Fines Paid (in thousands)	0	20	0	0	20
Storm Water					
Notices of Violation	4	0	0	0	4
Consent / Final Orders	0	0	1	3	4
Fines Paid (in thousands)	0	0	0	0	0

## SPECIAL/SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

### Operator Certification

The Water Quality Division is also responsible for providing training, testing and certification for operators of municipal public water supply and wastewater facilities across Oklahoma. The Operator Certification program, through its educational efforts, helps ensure that safe drinking water is provided to Oklahoma public water supply systems and that wastewater facilities are operated at an optimum level.

In FY99, 3,902 approved training hours were provided to operators using distant learning sites located across the state. The division issued new or higher level certificates to 963 new water operators and 854 municipal wastewater operators in addition to 83 water laboratory operators and 92 municipal wastewater laboratory operators.

### Operator Certification

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Operator Training and Certification					
Approved Training Hours Provided	928	1,046	1,163	765	3,902
New Certified Examinations					
Water Operator	170	345	271	177	963
Wastewater Operator	150	306	252	146	854
Water Laboratory Operator	28	23	25	7	83
Wastewater Laboratory Operator	11	25	33	23	92
Septic Tank Installer (from ECLS)	0	0	0	309	309
Landfill Operator	0	0	0	88	88

## On-Site Sewage System Installer Certification

The Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division (ECLS) has administered the Certified Installer Program since November 1, 1998. This is a voluntary program that certifies septic system installers to inspect their own installations, including lagoons and aerobic treatment units. The installers can install a system, perform the inspection, complete the final backfill and grading and leave the site without waiting for a DEQ inspection. There are currently 197 Certified Installers, with 35 installers in the process of certification and an additional 24 installers have passed their exam and upgraded their bonds.

A new enforcement procedure for this program has been in place for approximately six months. This program is administered by a point system that allows a maximum number of points against an installer before enforcement action is taken. Once an installer reaches the maximum number of points, the file is sent to DEQ legal staff for enforcement.







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Photograph of a sunset near Boiling Springs State Park  
by Barry Fogerty