Steve A. Thompson
Executive Director

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Governor

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2012 CONTINUING PLANNING PROCESS (CPP)
Response to Comments on the CPP draft

Comments from Tom Blachly, EST Inc., Tulsa

Comment #1:

Chapters do not have names. It would help when scanning a TOC to see the subject of the chapter.

Response:

Titled subchapters adequately describe the contents. No changes were made as a result of this comment.

Comments from Ed Brocksmith, Save the Illinois River, Inc.

Comment #2:

For most of us, this document (Draft CPP) is very difficult to comprehend. What does it mean for the Illinois River and other state scenic rivers? What does it mean for Tenkiller Lake? Are there any proposed changes that might adversely impact these resources?

Response:

We regret that the Draft CPP was difficult for you to comprehend. The CPP serves as an overall guide for how the State manages our streams, lakes, and rivers in a manner consistent with the CWA and Oklahoma water Quality Standards. It does not contain specific information about individual streams and lakes but sets out the procedures and process that the State uses to improve water quality. It describes both present and planned water quality management programs and the strategy the State uses in conducting these programs. No changes were made as a result of this comment.

Comments from Steve Owen (Solae, LLC)

Comment #3:

The $Q_{e(30)}$ definition is not well defined on Page 15 of the CPP document.

1. Does the (30) refer to 30 day or 30 year?

2. The two year period of record is not well defined.

Solae LLC proposes that the definition read as follows:

Qe(30) - Means the Qe which is the highest monthly average flow over the previous two year period of record for an industrial facility.

or

$Q_{e(30)}$ - Means the Qe which is the highest monthly average flow over the most recent two year period of record for an industrial facility.

3. Within other sections of the CPP document the industrial regulatory effluent flow is also defined as "the highest 30 day average flow occurring in the most recent two year period of record."

4. The OWRB defines Qe in OAC 785:46-5-2(c) as “the highest monthly averaged flow over the previous two years for industrial discharges...."

Response:

1. The number 30 in $Q_{e(30)}$ refers to 30 days.

2-4. The definition of $Q_{e(30)}$ used in the CPP is taken from the DEQ rule regarding water quality implementation (Title 252, Chapter 690-1-3). This definition must be used in the CPP unless the rule changes. In most cases, the most recent 2 years of data is utilized in permitting decisions. However, in cases where the most recent 2 years of data is not representative, data from a recent 2 year period of record that is representative is used. No changes were made as a result of this comment.

Comments from Jason Stutzman, (Oklahoma Ordnance Works Authority)

Comment #4:

Section: Acronyms and Definitions

Qe(30) as defined in the DEQ’s Draft CPP is not consistent with the OWRB definition contained in OAC 785:46-5-2(c) and OAC 785:46-19-2(b) for regulatory effluent flows. DEQ is differentiating between industrial (Qe(30)) and municipal (Qe(D)) regulatory effluent flows as they should. However, the OWRB separates the two within the definition of regulatory effluent flow and DEQ defines each separately.

The DEQ definition for municipal (Qe(D)) regulatory effluent flow is consistent with the OWRB definition for regulatory flow listed above. But, the DEQ definition for industrial (Qe(30)) regulatory effluent flow is slightly different than the OWRB definition. The OWRB specifies “the highest monthly averaged flow over the previous two years” for industrial discharges. The DEQ specifies “the highest monthly average flow over the two year period of record” for an industrial facility.

Perhaps DEQ intended that the Draft CPP definition for Qe(30) cover the previous two year period similar to the definition contained in the OWRB Water Quality Implementation Standards. In various locations throughout the Draft CPP and OAC 252:690 references to “most recent two year period of record” for industrial facilities are made. To alleviate any confusion I would suggest the definition for Qe(30) be changed to one of the following definitions to be consistent with OWRB Standards.

Qe(30): Means the Qe which is the highest monthly average flow over the most recent two year period of record for an industrial facility.

Or

Qe(30): Means the Qe which is the highest monthly averaged flow over the previous two years for industrial discharges if the permitting authority determines that sufficient data are available.

Response:

See response to Comment #3.