

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004



**DEQ Annual Report 2005**





# **DEQ Annual Report 2005**

This publication, printed by the University of Oklahoma Printing Services, is issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality as authorized by Steven A. Thompson, Executive Director. Eight-hundred copies have been produced at a cost of \$13,075.00. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Printed on recycled content paper. 2005 Annual Report\AR2005\\*pmd 9\_20\_05

# Contents

Letter from Executive Director .....	11
MISSION STATEMENT .....	12
DEQ Organizational Chart .....	13
Environmental Quality Board Rulemaking – State Fiscal Year 2005 .....	14
Environmental Quality Board .....	16
Air Quality Council.....	17
Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council .....	18
Radiation Management Advisory Council .....	19
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council .....	20
Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council.....	21
Water Quality Management Advisory Council .....	22
Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel .....	23
Laboratory Services Advisory Council .....	24
Criminal Enforcement Statistics Fiscal 2005 .....	25
DEQ Lawyers Wear Many Hats .....	25
DEQ Reaches Out to Oklahomans.....	26
<b>Awards and Special Recognition</b>	
DEQ Employees Honored by Co-workers .....	27
Administrative Services Employees Earn Certification .....	29
DEQ Employee Bussert Awarded OKAEE President’s Achievement Award .....	29
AQD’s Alwin Ning Honored by Lions Clubs International .....	31
2004 Air Quality Permit Writer Awards .....	31
Environmental Dedication: William B. Briesch .....	33
Air Quality Staff Come From All Over the Map .....	33

# Contents

Spotlight on Outstanding Asian-Pacific Oklahoman .....	34
EnvironMentor Receives Media Award .....	34
Recycle For Woody Guthrie .....	35
DEQ Helps Tinker Air Force Base Environmental Program Win Honors .....	35
Sand Springs Brownfield Site Wins Prestigious Phoenix Award .....	36
DEQ Water Quality Division Employees Recieve Awards .....	37
Natural Evolution Awarded DEQ’s First-Ever Gold OKStar for Environmental Excellence .....	39
DEQ Staff National Leaders .....	40
DEQ Support Staff: Proficient, Versatile and Indispensable .....	41
Records Management Section Becomes a Reality .....	44
Employee Team “Greens” DEQ .....	44
DEQ - A Good Neighbor .....	47
DEQ Opts for Money and Energy Savings in Building Operation and Maintenance .....	49
Environmental Education Grants Funded by Oklahoma License Plates .....	51
OKEECC Prepares 10-Year Report .....	52
<b>Air Quality</b>	
Air Quality: Not Just for the Birds .....	54
5,000 Youth Enjoy DEQ Activities at ScienceFest 2005 .....	55
Kingston Sixth Grader Survives Air Quality Challenge .....	58
DEQ Goes Extra Mile To Reduce Ozone .....	60
Risky Business: A New Risk-Based Approach to Air Toxics .....	61
Early Action Plans Finalized for Ozone Reductions .....	63
DEQ’s New Source Review Reforms .....	64

# Contents

Partnership for Progress .....	65
2004 Air Monitoring Update .....	66
Oklahoma City Pilots EnviroFlash .....	69
New Air Quality Service: Compliance and Enforcement Technical Resources and Training .....	71
Excess Emissions Reporting Procedures Updated .....	72
Air Quality Asbestos Programs .....	73
Strong Partnerships Aim to Eliminate Lead Poisoning .....	74
Air Toxics Monitoring: Ponca City and Tulsa .....	75
2004 Record Year in AQD Permitting .....	76
Excellence in Permitting Assistance Confirmed by Study Results .....	79
AQD Welcomes New Industry to Oklahoma .....	79
New MACT Standards Issued in 2004 .....	80
New Permit Exempt Category for Sources Under 40 TPY Approved by Environmental Quality Board .....	81
Submitting Emissions Inventories: Making the Job Easier .....	82
Emissions Inventory in 2005 .....	82
Redbud: Web-based Reporting of Emissions Inventories .....	83
Emissions Inventory Web Site: Easier to Navigate, Resources More Accessible .....	84
Emissions Inventory Annual Workshops .....	85
After Three Years, Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Programs Succeed .....	86
Portable Emissions Analyzer (PEA) .....	86
<b>Land Protection</b>	
Land Protection Introduction .....	89
Tar Creek: The Oklahoma Plan .....	91

# Contents

Tar Creek: Baseline Data Established .....	93
Tar Creek: GIS Application Supports Restoration .....	94
Tar Creek: DEQ Monitors Toxic Metal Levels in Oklahoma Fish .....	96
DEQ and ITRC: A Partnership for Success .....	97
DEQ Criminal Investigations Lead to Indictments .....	98
Waste Tire Fee: Why Do I Pay It and Where Does It Go? .....	101
Waste Tire Recycling Act Passed .....	104
General Motors Fuels Oklahoma City Plant with Landfill Gas .....	105
Sand Springs Petrochemical Complex Cleanup In Progress .....	107
Hudson Oil Refining Company Superfund Site .....	108
Fort Sill Ahead of the Cleanup Curve .....	110
Former Metal Plating Facility Cleaned Up .....	110
Woods Tank Farm .....	112
Duncan Refinery Voluntary Cleanup Site .....	113
Restoration Begins with DEQ Cleanup Loan .....	115
Harbor of Miami Benefits from Targeted Brownfield Assessment .....	118
Oklahoma’s Good Idea Gets National Attention .....	119
Hazardous Waste Delisting Rules Approved .....	119
Scouts Host Mercury Thermometer Exchange .....	120
<b>Water Quality</b>	
Water Quality Division is Guardian of State Waters .....	122
Fifth Graders Learn at H <sub>2</sub> Oklahoma .....	123
New Public Water Supply Regulations Addressed .....	125

# Contents

Targeted Technical Assistance Improves Water Quality .....	128
Storm Water Management at Highway Construction Sites .....	129
Maximum Daily Loads Set for Pollutants to Protect Fort Cobb Watershed .....	131
New Storm Water Permit Issued .....	133
TMDL Program Limits Watershed Pollutants .....	134
Questions Answered at Biomonitoring Workshop .....	136
Geographic Computer Technology Demonstrated at Capitol .....	137
Mapping Software Ties Data to Aquifer Locations .....	138
DEQ Determines Costs of Compliance with the Clean Water Act .....	139
Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Assured by Regulation and Project Funding .....	140
Innovative Construction Increases Water Pressure .....	143
Partnering Builds Water Treatment Plant .....	146
Engineers Receive System Operator Training .....	148
<b>Customer Services</b>	
Customer Services Introduction .....	150
Tier 2 Reporting Goes Online .....	151
DEQ and OSDH Research Environmental and Public Health Connections .....	152
DEQ and OSDH Investigate Childhood Lead Poisoning .....	153
SEL Tests Water Samples from Around the State .....	154
Shipping Updates Improve Water Analysis Turnaround and Quality .....	155
Community Development Day at the Capitol .....	156
SBAP and DEQ Host Federal Asbestos Standards Workshop .....	157
Taking The Mystery Out of Black Box Technology .....	158

# Contents

## Environmental Complaints and Local Services

Teamwork is Key to ECLS Success .....	160
Boral Brick Success .....	160
Kids Send in Posters by the Thousands .....	162
DEQ Listens to Certified Installers, Improves Access to Training .....	163
Most Complaints Quickly Resolved .....	164
Cooperating for Success: OWRB Infrastructure Assessment .....	165
ECLS and WQD Partner for Wastewater Treatment Regulatory Oversight .....	166
Communities and ECLS Protect Future Ground Water Supplies .....	167
A Helping Hand for a Good Cause .....	168

## Appendices

Air Quality .....	170
Land Protection .....	174
Water Quality .....	178
Customer Services .....	181
Environmental Complaints and Local Services .....	184
Environmental Quality Report .....	
Solid Waste Fees Budgeted and Expended - Fiscal Year 2005 .....	

# Letter from Executive Director



The new environmental protection requirements never seem to end. Requirements for public water supply, requirements for storm water protection, requirements for other wet-weather events. Billions of dollars needed to address crumbling water supply and wastewater infrastructure. The list goes on and on. Although the burden of these new requirements — most emanating from the federal level — affects the Department of Environmental Quality, by far the greater impact falls on Oklahoma’s communities. Small communities with equally small rate bases disproportionately feel that impact.

This report tells story after story of DEQ personnel who are working in partnership and collaboration with others to demonstrate the agency’s core values: problem solving and customer service. We are proud of the people who work so hard to make Oklahoma a better place to live.

But we must do more.

The DEQ is a regulatory agency and as such has a fundamental responsibility to achieve compliance with the law. We will not step back from this responsibility. We will use all the tools available to assure that the requirements made of us by the state legislature and the Environmental Quality Board are met. What we must *not* do is become the prototypical bureaucracy that, in its dealings with the state’s communities, mistakenly considers its ultimate problem-solving technique to be issuance of notices of violation and compliance orders.

Beginning next year, this agency will develop and implement what has been dubbed the “my facility” initiative. Individual DEQ employees will each adopt a community. Their job will be not just to note violations, but to help the community understand the issue underlying the violation and to give guidance toward a solution. DEQ employees are already doing this to a degree, but even greater emphasis will be placed upon actually helping communities solve their problems.

As you read this report, you will note that DEQ staff are ready to meet the challenge to work cooperatively with every community for a clean, attractive and prosperous Oklahoma.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven A. Chapo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality  
...for a clean, attractive, prosperous Oklahoma.

## FISCAL YEAR 2005 GOALS

### **GOAL ONE:**

Solve problems through effective processes, rules application and innovative approaches while maintaining an effective and appropriate federal relationship.

### **GOAL TWO:**

Provide standardized, effective, timely and enforceable permitting processes.

### **GOAL THREE:**

Provide services to citizens, local governments and businesses on issues within the Department's mission.

### **GOAL FOUR:**

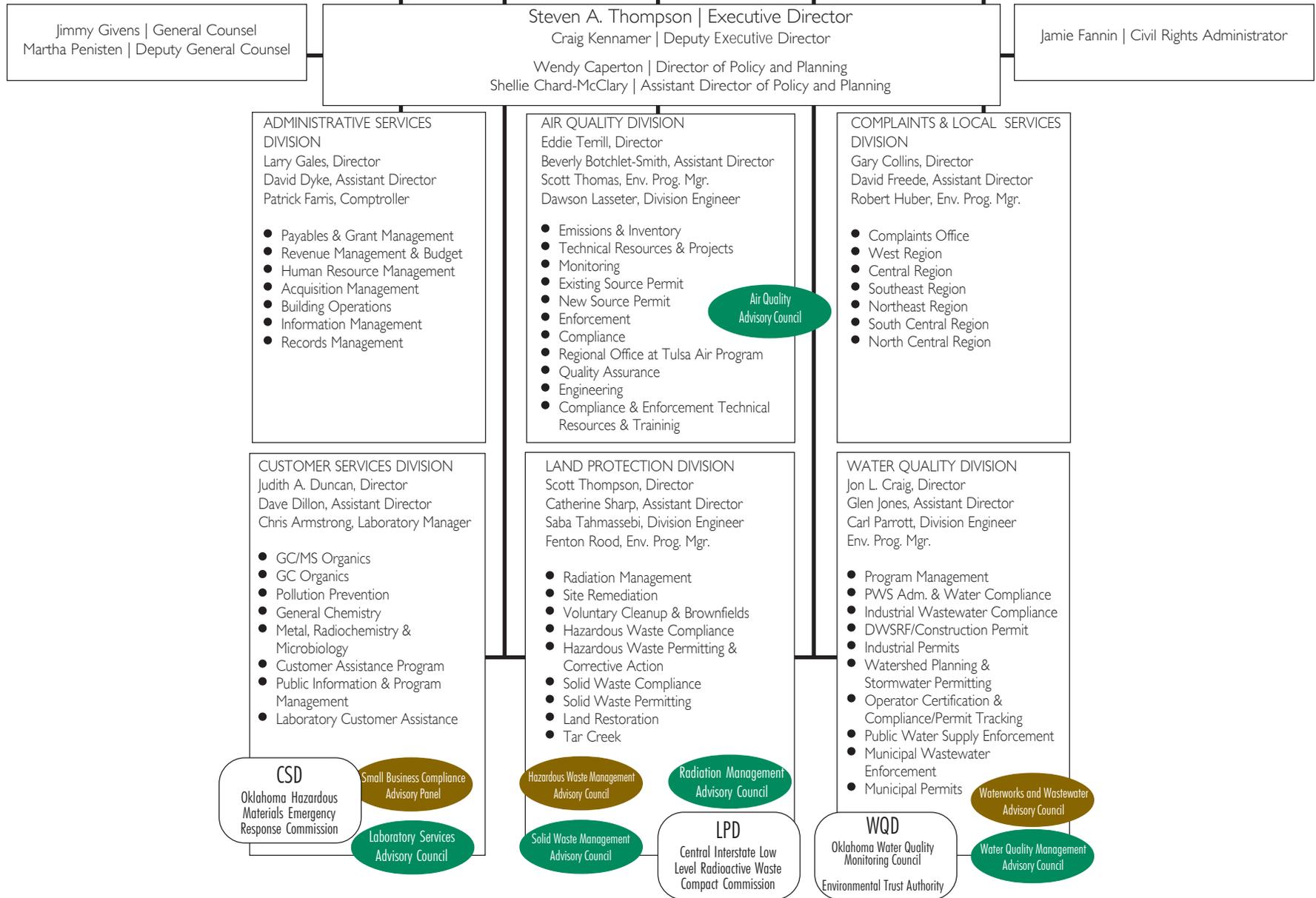
Solve problems through a responsive, equitable and timely environmental complaints process and emergency response system.

### **GOAL FIVE:**

Provide consistent inspection, monitoring and enforcement within the bounds of the Department's statutory jurisdiction.

# DEQ Organizational Chart

## Environmental Quality Board



Advisory Councils Advisory Councils recommend rules to the Environmental Quality Board.



# Environmental Quality Board Rulemaking - State Fiscal Year 2005

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is a 13-member body appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the state Senate. Members are drawn from a variety of industrial, commercial, governmental and public interest backgrounds. The board is the rule-adopting body for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). During state

fiscal year 2005, the board took rulemaking actions affecting 12 existing chapters of DEQ regulations and created one new chapter.

All rule proposals were reviewed and recommended by the appropriate advisory council before presentation to the board for adoption. Each advisory council is comprised of nine individuals rep-

resenting a broad range of perspectives, each with substantial experience or interest in the areas within the purview of that advisory council. Before acting on any rule proposal, councils offer individuals and entities an opportunity to make written or oral comments. The relatively high level of public participation in Oklahoma helps significantly to shape the rules pro-

posals eventually presented to the board.

In order to become effective, rules adopted by the Environmental Quality Board must be affirmatively approved by the Governor and not disapproved by the state Legislature. All rules adopted by the board in state fiscal year 2005 received affirmative gubernatorial and tacit legislative approval.<sup>1</sup> A number of rule changes promulgated simply clarified language or updated the incorporation by reference of federal rules, as needed for Oklahoma to retain primacy over federally delegated environmental programs. Among the more notable rule actions:

- Updated lead-based paint rules
- Implementation of a state hazardous waste exclusion (delisting) program
- Additional protection to Oklahoma's designated scenic rivers by further restricting land application of sludge

The table on the next page summarizes rulemaking actions by the board in state fiscal year 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Proposed rules adopted by EQB in June 2005 were pending gubernatorial and legislative approval at the end of state fiscal year 2005. If approved, they will become effective during state fiscal year 2006.

# State Fiscal Year 2005

## OAC 252

CHAPTER	COUNCIL	SUBJECT	ADOPTED	TYPE	EFFECTIVE
4	N/A	Revise administrative fees; increase file security	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
4	WQMAC	Correct and clarify water quality permit tier rules	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
100	AQAC	Correct citation; clarify emission standards for small cotton gins and grain/feed/seed operations	8/24/04	Permanent	6/15/05
100	AQAC	Clarify air curtain incinerator permit requirements; update incorporation by reference of federal NESHAP and NAAQS	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/06
100	AQAC	Divide subchapter 41 into two subchapters, separating federal from state-only requirements	6/21/05	Permanent and Emergency	On Governor's Approval
110	AQAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal lead-based paint rules; clarify training required for accredited programs; etc.	8/24/04	Permanent	6/15/05
205	HWMAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal hazardous waste rules; implement state hazardous waste "delisting" program	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
410	RMAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal radiation management rules; clarify language; revise fees; etc.	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
606	WQMAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal pollutant discharge rules	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
611	WQMAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal water quality rules	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
616	WQMAC	Add restrictions on land application of sludge near scenic rivers and on use of wastewater for dust suppression, etc.	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
619	WQMAC	Add chapter to specifically address non-industrial total retention lagoon systems	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
621	WQMAC	Limit scope of chapter to flow-through and public water supply impoundments (companion to chapter 619 addition)	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
631	WQMAC	Update incorporation by reference of federal public water supply rules	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
690	WQMAC	Update incorporation by reference of various federal rules; amend some monitoring and testing requirements; etc.	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05
710	WWWAC	Create certification exception for some lab operators; add a classification category; cleanup	3/04/05	Permanent	6/15/05

AQAC refers to the Air Quality Advisory Council; HWMAC refers to the Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council; RMAC refers to the Radiation Management Advisory Council; WQMAC refers to the Water Quality Management Advisory Council; and WWWAC refers to the Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Council.

# Environmental Quality Board

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Brita Haugland Cantrell	Nonprofit Statewide Environmental Organization	Governor	1/31/2008
Mike Cassidy	Agriculture Industries	Governor	1/31/2010
Jack Coffman	Manufacturing Representative	Governor	1/31/2008
Anthony (Tony) Dark	Water Usage	Governor	1/31/2009
Bob Drake	Rural Water Association	Governor	1/31/2007
Jennifer Galvin <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Petroleum Industry	Governor	1/31/2009
David Griesel	Solid Waste Industry	Governor	1/31/2007
Jerry Johnston	Local Governing Board of City or Town	Governor	1/31/2010
Steve Mason <b>Chair</b>	Hazardous Waste Industry	Governor	1/6/2006
Sandra Rose	Nonprofit Statewide Environmental Organization	Governor	1/31/2009
Karol "Terri" Savage	Nonprofit Statewide Environmental Organization	Governor	1/31/2007
Richard Wuerflein	Conservation District Representative	Governor	1/31/2006
Vacancy	Environmental Professional	Governor	1/31/2008



Brita Haugland Cantrell



Mike Cassidy



Jack Coffman



Anthony "Tony" Dark



Bob Drake



Jennifer Galvin



David Griesel



Jerry Johnston



Steve Mason



Sandra Rose



Terri Savage



Richard Wuerflein

# Air Quality Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
David Branecky	Utility	Governor	6/15/2006
Bob Curtis	Transportation	Governor	6/15/2007
Robert Lynch **	Higher Education	Governor	6/15/2011
Gary Martin	Local Government	Governor	6/15/2008
Sharon Myers *	General Industry	Governor	6/15/2009
Jerry Purkapple	Petroleum	Governor	6/15/2012
Donald Smith	General Public	Governor	6/15/2012
Rick Treeman	Agriculture	Governor	6/15/2010
Laura Worthen	Engineering	Governor	6/15/2006

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Air Quality Council spent most of fiscal 2005 in hearings on the Air Quality Division's proposed new state Air Toxics Program. Proposed revisions to subchapter 41, a new subchapter 42 and appendix O were introduced at the July 2004 meeting. The revisions would move the division's emphasis from a permit-based approach with hundreds of listed toxics to a risk-based approach focusing on Toxic Air Contaminants monitored in specific Areas of Concern. The intent was to make the program both protective of health and administratively manageable.

Hearings on the proposed pro-

gram were held in July, December and January. In April, the council recommended that subchapters 41 and 42 and appendix O be heard at the June 2005 Environmental Quality Board meeting. The council continued the fee component of the proposed toxic program (subchapter 5) until after the legislative session, on the chance that the state would find funding for the proposed program.

Other business addressed by the council this fiscal year included incorporation by reference of federal New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

The council clarified requirements for accredited training programs and certificate requirements for Lead-Based Paint Management. It approved minor changes to radiation management rules and clarified the intent of rules pertaining to emissions from cotton gins and grain facilities.

Council membership has changed with the resignations of William Breisch and Joel Wilson. Now serving are Sharon Myers (chair), Robert Lynch (vice-chair), David Branecky, Rick Treeman, Gary Martin, Robert Curtis, Donald Smith, Laura Worthen and Jerry Purkapple. The Governor appoints

council members.

The Oklahoma Air Quality Council, authorized by the Oklahoma Clean Air Act, reviews air quality issues and holds public hearings as part of the state's rulemaking process. Once approved by the council, proposed rules and regulations are recommended to the Environmental Quality Board. If approved by the board, they proceed to the state Legislature and Governor for adoption. Further information about the council and its scheduled public hearings is available online at [www.deq.state.ok.us/AQDnew/council/AQCouncil.htm](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/AQDnew/council/AQCouncil.htm). ■

# Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Bob Kennedy **	Industry	Governor	3/01/2005
Kathy Martin	Nonprofit Env. Org.	Governor	3/01/2006
Jody Reinhart *	Hazardous Waste Ind.	Speaker of the House	3/28/2006
David Bradshaw, P.E.	Geology	Speaker of the House	10/22/2006
Steve Tomberlin	Political Subdivision	Pro Tempore	3/11/2006
Michael D. Graves	General Public	Pro Tempore	3/11/2004
Wesley Anderson	Industry HW generator	Pro Tempore	3/11/2008
Bruce Elwell	Political Subdivision	Governor	3/01/2005
Gerald S. Ihler	Engineering	Speaker of the House	10/23/2006

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council met January 11, 2005, to elect new officers for 2005. Jody Reinhart was elected for another term as chairwoman and Bob Kennedy was elected for another term as vice-chairman. The council also heard discussions on revisions to Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 252:205-3-1, incorporating by reference the federal hazard-

ous waste regulations of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as they existed on July 1, 2004.

The only changes that will affect Oklahoma facilities have to do with revised used-oil management standards promulgated at 68 FR 44659. The federal amendments accomplished three things: they 1) clarified when used oil contaminated with PCBs is subject

to used-oil management standards under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and when it is not; 2) clarified that mixtures of Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) wastes and used oil are subject to RCRA used-oil management standards, regardless of how the mixture will be recycled; and 3) modified recordkeeping requirements for the initial marketer

of used oil, requiring a record of shipment of used oil only to a facility to which that marketer delivers the used oil (i.e., not to subsequent recipients of the used oil).

At the conclusion of the discussion, the council voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the revisions effective June 15, 2005. For more information, go to [www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/HW/hwmac.html](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/HW/hwmac.html). ■

# Radiation Management Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Eric Bartoletti	Industrial Radiography	Pro Tempore	3/03/2007
Nadine Barton	General Public	Pro Tempore	1/03/2008
George MacDurmon	University	Pro Tempore	1/03/2006
Karen Jennings	Environmental Organization	Governor	7/01/2006
Steve Woods **	Engineering	Governor	7/01/2005
Vacant	Industry	Governor	7/01/2007
Steve Clark	Petroleum Industry	Speaker of the House	12/01/2005
Monte Goucher	Transportation Industry	Speaker of the House	11/17/2005
David Gooden, J.D.,Ph.D. *	Medical Industry	Speaker of the House	10/22/2006

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Radiation Management Advisory Council met in April for a briefing on upcoming rules changes. In December, the council passed an ambitious package of rules, including important changes that affect

regulation of nuclear medicine. The changes will reduce regulatory attention to diagnostic nuclear medicine and enhance the attention paid to therapeutic nuclear medicine, which uses larger quantities of material and

poses more potential risk.

Other changes recommended to the board included paperwork reduction (an extension of the permit for X-ray machines from one to ten years); institution of late fees for late pay-

ments of radiation fees; and an increase in application fees for certain radioactive-materials licensees to cover related costs to the department. For more information see [www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/Rad/radmac.html](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/Rad/radmac.html). ■

# Solid Waste Management Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Vacant	Statewide Env. Org.	Governor	3/01/2004
Jay Stout **	General Public	Governor	3/01/2008
Ralph Triplett, Jr.	County Commissioner	Governor	3/01/2005
Donald W. Fletcher	Transportation	Speaker of the House	6/02/2008
David Griesel	SW Disposal Industry	Speaker of the House	3/07/2008
Jeffrey A. Shepherd	Engineering	Speaker of the House	10/31/2007
Elzie Smith, Jr.	Political Subdivision	Pro Tempore	3/03/2007
Steve Landers	Industry Generating SW	Pro Tempore	3/01/2005
Bill Torneten *	Geology	Pro Tempore	3/01/2006

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Solid Waste Management Advisory Council, under the authority of the Oklahoma Solid Waste Management Act, serves as one of three initial rulemaking bodies of the Land Protection Division. The council reviews solid waste issues, holds public hearings and

provides the Environmental Quality Board with expertise. Council meetings are open to the public; anyone may address the council during the open forum portion of the meeting. Nine council members represent relevant areas of expertise defined by the Okla-

homa Environmental Quality Code (27A O.S.§2-2-201(E)). At the annual fall meeting, DEQ reports on solid waste fee income and program expenditures for the fiscal year. Officers are elected for the coming year at the final meeting of each calendar year. Also at this

time, the council sets meeting dates and locations for the following calendar year. The May 19, 2005, meeting was canceled. The fall meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2005. For more information, go to [www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/SW/swmac.htm](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/SW/swmac.htm). ■

# Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Carl Gray*	Higher Education	Governor	6/30/2004
Jim Pumphrey	Waterworks Operator	Governor	6/30/2005
Robert Carr, Jr.	OK Municipal League	Governor	6/30/2006
Karl Potochnik**	OK Rural Water Assn.	Speaker of the House	7/08/2005
Rick Ritter	Wastewater Works Operator	Speaker of the House	6/28/2007
Allen McDonald	Waterworks Operator	Speaker of the House	6/27/2007
Donald Spence	OK Rural Water Assn.	Pro Tempore	6/30/2005
Rick Stebbens	OK Water & Pollution	Pro Tempore	6/30/2006
Woody Epperson	OK Water & Pollution	Pro Tempore	6/30/2007

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council met three times in fiscal 2005, on September 17, January 21 and May 13. At the January meeting, the council addressed application

fees in the Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operator Certification rule, Oklahoma Administrative Code 252:710. The council voted in favor of recommending a change to allow the Operator Cer-

tification Section (Water Quality Division) to revoke initial license applications when the fee is not submitted within 180 days. The council also approved simplifications, updates and minor corrections to ex-

isting rules. The Environmental Quality Board passed the rule changes at their March meeting. The council also welcomed Allen McDonald, a new member who joined early in 2005. ■

# Water Quality Management Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Jeffrey Short**	Engineering	Governor	3/01/2007
Brian Campbell	General Public	Governor	3/01/2005
Michel Paque	Environmental Organization	Governor	3/01/2006
Cathy Canty	Industry	Pro Tempore	3/16/2008
Joseph Warren	Oil Field Related	Pro Tempore	3/01/2004
Glen Brown	Geology	Pro Tempore	3/01/2006
Michael E. Thomas	Local Government	Speaker of the House	8/12/2007
Lowell Hobbs*	Agriculture	Speaker of the House	8/12/2007
Lyle Collins	Rural Water District	Speaker of the House	6/26/2007

\* Chair \*\* Vice Chair

The Water Quality Management Advisory Council (WQMAC) reviews water quality rules and rule modifications and recommends them to the Environmental Quality Board. WQMAC's authority extends to current rules pertaining to the public water supply, industrial and municipal

wastewater construction, water treatment and discharge, pre-treatment of water, biosolids in water, the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, small public and private water systems, underground injection control and implementation of water quality standards.

The council consists of nine members, each appointed to a 3-year term. Membership represents local government, industry, oil and gas, geology, engineering, agriculture, rural water districts, environmental groups and the general public. The Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President Pro

Tempore of the Senate each appoint one member. The council meets at least three times each calendar year, typically in January, May and October, and schedules further meetings as needed. For more information and a schedule of council meetings, go to [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us). ■

# Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
William Wortman	General public	Governor	3/1/2003
Brett Hamm	General public	Governor	3/1/2005
Patrick K. Jaynes, Ph.D.	Small Business Owner	Pro Tempore	8/3/2009
Michael Rohlfing	Small Business Owner	Speaker of the House	1/15/2010
Tim Dowd	Small Business Owner	Minority Leader of the House	1/15/2005
Robert Henry*	Small Business Owner	Minority Leader of the Senate	11/8/2010
Matt Robison	No specific requirements	Executive Director of the DEQ	1/15/2009

\* Chair

The Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel, in association with the Small Business Assistance Program and the Small Business Ombudsman, represents

Oklahoma's small business community on a wide range of environmental issues. Throughout fiscal 2005, the panel continued to be a diligent advocate for small

businesses throughout Oklahoma. By offering opinions on topics that potentially affect small businesses such as the effectiveness of the Small Business Assistance

Program and DEQ rulemaking, the panel was able to contribute to the continued well-being of the numerous small businesses in Oklahoma. ■

# Laboratory Services Advisory Council

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
James W. Engman	Permit holder	Governor	7/1/2004
Brian Duzan	Private Laboratory	Governor	7/1/2006
Vacant	Hydrogeology	Governor	7/01/2005
Elaine Stebler	Microbiology	Pro Tempore	9/9/2005
William J. Janacek	Public Laboratory	Pro Tempore	9/9/2007
Vacant	Private Laboratory	Pro Tempore	9/9/2003
Anthony Bright*	Environmental Chemistry	Speaker of the House	7/20/2006
Rodney Wiedemann	Permit holder	Speaker of the House	3/7/2008
Kenneth Crawford	Private Lab	Speaker of the House	3/7/2008

\* Chair

The Laboratory Services Advisory Council (LSAC) reviews proposed laboratory accreditation rules and recommends rule changes to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The council has been tracking changes in standards developed by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation

Conference (NELAC). Council members will evaluate the national standards for possible incorporation into Oklahoma’s Laboratory Accreditation program, residing in the Customer Services Division of DEQ.

Demand for state laboratory services is growing, both in drinking water and general water and

sludge programs. In part, the higher workload is originating with laboratories that serve smaller communities. These locales are becoming more aware of the need to analyze the products of chlorine disinfection that are found in drinking water and to monitor discharges from their wastewater treatment plants.

LSAC is part of the process by which the state works to accommodate growing demand for laboratory data, while still maintaining professional quality standards. Further information on the laboratory accreditation program can be found on the DEQ Web site, [deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/labcert.htm](http://deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/labcert.htm). ■

# Criminal Enforcement Statistics Fiscal 2005



Preliminary investigations conducted:	24
New cases opened:	4
Cases continued from previous years:	16
Felony counts filed:	33
Misdemeanor counts filed:	1
Felony convictions (individuals):	3
Misdemeanor convictions (individuals):	2

## DEQ Lawyers Wear Many Hats

*Environmental law* is the term used to refer to the body of environmental protection laws and regulations administered and enforced by state and federal agencies. One might think that a lawyer working for DEQ needs only one “hat” to do the job — that of environmental lawyer. DEQ lawyers do need substantial knowledge of environmental law in their areas of expertise — for example, hazardous waste, air emissions or wastewater discharges. But entities and individuals subject to environmental regulation may be interested to know that DEQ, including its lawyers, goes about the business of environmental regulation as uniformly as possible across all regulatory domains.

For the agency’s legal staff, the sense of uniformity in environmental enforcement grows more out of their

understanding of administrative law than their expertise in environmental law. Administrative law is concerned with fairness and uniformity in rulemaking and enforcement activities. DEQ lawyers must wear their environmental law and administrative law “hats” together.

### The Administrative Law Hat

Administrative agencies are a common and important vehicle for implementing legislative and governmental policies. Historically, however, a broad and fundamental belief held that such agencies violated the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers. Critics thought that administrative agencies mingled and concentrated legislative, executive and judicial powers. Administrative law (and perhaps



the regulated community) thus became increasingly engaged with controlling, reviewing and improving agency processes.

In response, the federal and, later, state governments enacted their own versions of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The Oklahoma APA ensures uniformity of notice and openness in rulemaking and enforcement procedures being adopted and used by Oklahoma agencies, including

DEQ. The agency’s lawyers are especially attuned to APA issues. Chief among their duties is to assist the agency in meeting the requirements of the Oklahoma APA.

### The General Practitioner Hat

In reality, though, laws are interwoven. One cannot be a good environmental or government lawyer with-

*continued*

out first being well prepared in the law generally. This is certainly true for DEQ lawyers, who must be prepared to advise programs on a wide variety of legal issues, some seemingly unrelated to environmental or administrative law — corporate law, bankruptcy law, debtor/creditor and collection issues, trade secret issues, and sometimes even torts and criminal law.

In the context of land reclama-

tion and remediation, legal issues often arise concerning constitutional matters apart from the ones arising under the Oklahoma APA, contracts and real property law. DEQ lawyers regularly handle issues related to labor and employment, tribal sovereignty, copyright, open meetings and open records. DEQ lawyers must also know the jurisdictional areas and responsibilities of other state and federal environmental agen-

cies that affect DEQ programs.

To settle environmental cases, DEQ lawyers need and use negotiation and sometimes mediation skills. To litigate environmental cases, DEQ lawyers must know the state and federal courts and have experience in the areas of pleadings, evidence, discovery, and motion and trial practice.

Practicing environmental law involves more than interpreting and

applying environmental statutes and regulations. For that reason, it can be difficult to identify which “hat” is more important or how DEQ lawyers contribute most significantly in the agency’s operation on any given day. The general goal, however, is always to help achieve the highest degree of environmental compliance consistent with laws and legal principles designed to ensure regulatory fairness and uniformity. ■

## DEQ Reaches Out to Oklahomans

Oklahoma journalists appear to have a healthy interest in the state’s environmental news. Throughout fiscal 2005, DEQ responded to 475 media requests. Staff were interviewed 228 times by representatives of all media outlets; they were contacted one or more times by 67 different newspapers, 14 television stations and 6 radio stations. Overall, in fiscal 2005 media interest in DEQ’s activities increased 20 percent over the previous year.

Not only does DEQ respond to media requests, but public information staff originate news articles, as well. This year the agency has issued 63 press releases to assure public access to accurate, timely environ-

mental advisories and news of enforcement activities, environmental awards and achievements, and the latest on public awareness and action issues such as recycling. The agency e-mails press releases to media statewide and posts items on the DEQ Web site at [www.deq.state.ok.us/mainlinks/press.htm](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/mainlinks/press.htm). Staff connect with the public in person by presenting training, seminars and topical briefings. In fiscal 2005, DEQ staff spoke before more than 14,000 people representing 186 groups.

Whether in person, in print or online, the purpose of outreach and public information is to give the public ready access to information

and expertise on environmental topics, to promote public understanding of DEQ’s role, responsibili-

ties and actions on behalf of our environment, and to support the statewide environmental ethic. ■



707 North Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

### News Release

For Immediate Release: January 24, 2005  
Contact: Monty Elder, (405) 702-1017

#### DEQ Announces 2005 Trash Poster Contest

“Cowboy Up - Get It Clean” says the slogan on one of the winners in the 2004 Trash Poster Contest. Deadline for entries in the 2005 contest is February 1 and students in Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to showcase their creative talent by entering.

In 2004 more than 16,461 entries were received in the statewide Trash Poster competition. The annual contest is a partnership of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB), the Department of Education and the Cherokee Nation.

The contest encourages students to learn about Oklahoma’s litter and solid waste issues and then propose solutions through art. Two posters from the 2004 contest have been printed in enlarged format plus the ever popular Trash Poster Contest calendar is now available.

The contest is divided into categories by grade: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. DEQ coordinates county-level judging through its local offices. County winners will receive certificates and participate in the state-level competition.

The 12 state winners will receive cash prizes, including \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place in each of the four divisions. They also will receive mounted copies of their posters and T-shirts printed with their designs. The state winners of the thirteenth annual contest, their families and teachers will be invited to an awards luncheon in April, and the students will be introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol.

*Left is a copy of one of the news releases issued by DEQ during FY 2005.*

# Awards and Special Recognition

## DEQ Employees Honored by Co-workers



*ERC members Linda Fine, Colby Mullins, Jamie Fannin and Kim Wyatt sort the items the committee sells with the DEQ logo.*

Most employees thrive on a sense of accomplishment and recognition of their work. Recognition and praise are among the building blocks of a great workplace. The DEQ Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) annually honors all DEQ employees for outstanding service during Public Employee Service Week, the first week of May. Employees are provided donuts on one day, popcorn on another day and a free luncheon hosted by committee representatives from each division.

Four times each year, employees select a co-worker as Employee of the Quarter. Candidates must demonstrate outstanding service, teamwork, problem-solving ability and leadership. At the end

of the fiscal year, DEQ division directors select one of the four to be Employee of the Year.

Maria Collard, Charles Freshour, Garylee Walz and Roy Walker were the Employees of the Quarter this year. Each received a plaque, a gift certificate and a reserved parking space.

- Maria Collard, Project Leader for the Air Permit Unit (Technical Resources and Projects Section) joined DEQ in October 2003. Collard ensures that all required information is entered into AQD and EPA databases and prepares bi-monthly permit statistics for engineers. She serves as the accreditation
- contact for the Lead-based Paint Program and as Page Master back-up for the AQD Web page. Collard was nominated by a co-worker as a model of exceptional efficiency and effectiveness. She works well with every group involved in permit tracking. She is always learning, acquiring new abilities and assuming new responsibilities on her own initiative. She is focused, patient and an excellent trainer. Collard graduated magna cum laude from Florida International University with a bachelor of science degree in environmental studies. She previously worked for the Sax and Fox Nation Office of Environmental Services.
- Charles Freshour came to the General Chemistry & Metals Section in January 2002. He is the primary analyst for total organic carbon and specific ultraviolet absorbance analysis in drinking water. He is also the analyst responsible for chemical oxygen demand for surface, ground and waste waters for Tar

Creek and other Superfund sites. His nominator noted that Freshour “takes a lead role in many areas of the State Environmental Lab. Many employees come to Charles for his help. He is highly noticeable and valuable to DEQ, the State of Oklahoma and the public who depends on his lab analysis. He is an expert leader in his field.” Freshour graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. As a student, for three years, he participated in the Soybean Research Project for the USDA at the Agricultural Research Station in El Reno.

- Garylee Walz began work at DEQ in January 1995 in the Enforcement Section of the Air Quality Division. He performs facility compliance evaluations and enforcement and complaint inspections throughout the state. His co-workers state that Walz is honest and hard working. He has a high level of

*continued*



*Maria Collard – Environmental Programs Specialist – Air Quality Division*



*Charles Freshour – Environmental and Chemical Lab Scientist – Customer Services Division*



*Garylee Walz – Environmental Programs Specialist – Air Quality Division*

personal integrity. He is always willing to share his extensive knowledge in a courteous



*Roy Walker - Information Systems Manager - Administrative Services Division - EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR*

manner with the public. He is unfailingly polite and professional, even under trying

circumstances with difficult callers. Walz accepts more than his share of complaint assignments and voluntarily assists other employees in countless inspections. He has provided significant training to numerous air quality inspectors. Walz is known for his problem-solving abilities. He has an exceptionally well-rounded store of general and specific knowledge applicable to both air quality and industry. Walz enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1968. He graduated from Phillips University in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in biology and education. He completed a master's degree in education at OSU in 1996 and taught science in public schools for approximately ten years.

- Roy Walker, a manager in the Information Management Section, began working at DEQ as a temporary employee in March 2002. He was hired as a permanent employee in June of that year. Walker is well-liked by peers, subordinates and superiors. He is a professional, responsible employee and willing to help in any way he can. Walker makes a point of reminding all of his employees

that the Ops Section is in the business of customer service; DEQ employees requesting Ops assistance are treated as valuable customers. He sets an excellent example for his employees as he strives to provide the highest quality of service and to prevent problems before they happen. Problem solving is Walker's specialty. He has been instrumental in several agency-wide projects, saving the agency thousands of dollars and valuable time and effort. Walker graduated from Moore High School and the University of Oklahoma. He worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone as a mid-level manager in computer technology for 27 years. He worked 20 of those years right here at 707 N. Robinson, with the remaining time spent in St. Louis, Ft. Worth and Norman. He is a former member of the Norman City Council and Planning Commission and currently serves on the Norman Board of Adjustment.

Roy Walker was selected as Employee of the Year for exceeding standards in service to the agency and the citizens of Oklahoma. ■

## Administrative Services Employees Earn Certification

Two Administrative Services Division employees have earned professional certification this year. Certification distinguishes employees who are state-trained and have passed proficiency exams in their fields.

Karla Crawford, Human Resources Programs Manager, became a Certified Personnel Professional in October 2004. To be eligible, employees must regularly develop or implement personnel administration policies, practices and procedures as part of their duties, attend 24 hours of professional training and successfully complete an examination covering all aspects of human resources in state government. The exam tests candidates' knowledge of personnel policies and practices, including Merit rules and the Oklahoma Personnel Act. Certification after the first year requires an additional eight hours of continuing education annually.

Budd Hoaas, Information Systems Network Management Specialist, became a Certified Procurement Officer in October. The State Purchasing Director certifies state agency purchasing employ-



*Karla Crawford*

ees who demonstrate proficiency in the principles of state procurement practices, basic contracting, the provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act and the State Use Committee (an affiliated commission of the Department of Central Services), and other matters related to state procurement practices. Hoaas attended 18 hours of training and successfully completed the Office of Personnel Management procurement officer



*Budd Hoaas*

exam. He will attend 18 hours of continuing training each year to maintain certification. ■

## DEQ Employee Ellen Bussert Awarded OKAEE President's Achievement Award

For the second consecutive year, the Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education has

awarded the President's Achievement Award to a DEQ employee. Ellen Bussert, Administrative Services Division, received the award in honor of her many years of leadership and effectiveness in the field. The award is presented annually to an Oklahoma educator who exhibits personal and professional commitment to environmental education in a formal or non-formal setting.

*continued*

Bussert has been a leader and motivator in the environmental education community for many years. She is a charter member of the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee, for which she has chaired the H<sub>2</sub>Oklahoma Festival for 10 years. She also co-chaired the Environmental Quality Education Committee that is responsible for distributing environmental education vehicle license tag funds to support

youth environmental education projects, outdoor classrooms and environmental field trips.

Representing DEQ, Bussert has been a leader in developing and implementing the original Weyerhaeuser Excellence in Recycling Awards Program that Weyerhaeuser now operates in seven other states. She promotes Oklahoma Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and represents DEQ on the project advisory



*Ellen Bussert and son, Paul, take a lunch break at ScienceFest.*



*Ellen Bussert visits with students about the water cycle before they do "the Incredible Journey" at ScienceFest.*

board. She also serves on the board of directors for the Ada Recycling Coalition and is active in educational outreach activities year-around.

The award-winner's best-loved work, however, is educating children to appreciate and protect the environment. During the 2003-2004 school year, Bussert co-sponsored the Mean Green Recycling Team at Ida Freeman Elementary School in Edmond. She visited first and second grade classes monthly to present programs on subjects related to recycling. Bussert helped the first and second graders establish the school's first recycling program. The young recyclers celebrated a successful year by collecting aluminum cans, then holding a 5-minute relay to see which class could compact the most cans, disposing of them in a recycling bin.

At the association's award ceremony, Bussert credited co-workers for providing her with information and support. "Without the network of knowledgeable professionals at DEQ, I would not be able to be as effective in my outreach efforts to students and communities," she said. ■

## **AQD's Alwin Ning Honored by Lions Clubs International**

Lions Clubs International, a highly regarded international community service organization, honored DEQ employee Alwin Ning in May with the Club President Excellence Award. Ning, a 32-year veteran employee of DEQ's Air Quality Division, was born in China. He came to the U.S. on a scholarship to attend Columbia University in New York City, then earned his graduate degree at the State University of New York in Stony Brook. He later moved to Oklahoma, where he began his long environmental career.

Ning joined the Oklahoma City Downtown Lions Club in 1979, serving variously as Vice District Governor, Region and Zone Chair, Committee Chair and Club President. In June 2005 Ning was installed as a District Governor at the 88th Annual Convention of Lions International held in Hong Kong. He has been honored twice as Lion of the Year and has received the Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest honor the Lions Clubs International Foundation bestows. Ning has been the recipient of numerous other honors in recognition of his leadership and



*Asok Mehta, Lions International President, presents Alwin Ning with the Club President Excellence Award at the 2005 Annual Oklahoma State Lions Convention, May 14, 2005.*

those whose efforts are exceptional.

The Relative Difficulty Index, or RDI, is a

community service. DEQ is proud of the acknowledgement given to employees who make outstanding contributions in their communities and beyond. ■

## **2004 Air Quality Permit Writer Awards**

Writing air permits for nearly every air emission source in the state of Oklahoma is no small order. Only 29 permit engineers are available to do the job, so their achievement is impressive. All permit writers do excellent work, but in 2000 the Air Quality Permitting Section adopted a system to honor

rating system that assigns a point value to each new permit application – the more complex the permit, the greater the number of RDI points. At the end of each calendar year, the section honors the permit writer with the highest number of points in each category. In addition, all permit writers with 800 RDI or more for the year are inducted into the Aerie Club. The recognition of outstanding achievement generates a friendly, productive competition among the section's engineers. The following employees are this year's award winners:

*continued*

Applicability Determinations Permit Writer of the Year  
Construction Permit Writer of the Year  
Operating Permit Writer of the Year  
Title V and TV Renewals Permit Writer of the Year  
Permit Writer of the Year (1,788 RDI)  
Permit Writer of the Year (1,614 RDI)

Herb Neumann  
Herb Neumann  
Donna Lautzenhiser  
David Schutz  
David Schutz  
Herb Neumann

### Aerie Club Members

David Schutz  
Herb Neumann  
Eric Milligan  
Mark Chen  
David Pollard  
Donna Lautzenhiser



Permit Writer award winners in the Tulsa Area Office: Herb Neuman and David Pollard.



Permit Writer award winners in the Oklahoma City Area Office: Donna Lautzenhiser, David Schutz, Eric Milligan and Mark Chen.

## Environmental Dedication: William B. Breisch

In January 2005, William B. Breisch resigned from the Air Quality Council after serving for 33 years. He had served since 1972 under governors Hall, Boren, Nigh, Bellmon, Walters, Keating and Henry. He worked with Air Quality chiefs Robert V. Blanch, Jack Gallion and John Drake, and Air Quality directors Larry Byrum and Eddie Terrill.

Breisch, owner-operator of the engineering firm Breisch & Associates, represented the field of engineering on the council. When he first was appointed, Environmental Quality was a division within the Oklahoma Department of Health. During his tenure, Air Quality



*Bill Breisch, pictured with Chairwoman Sharon Myers, is honored at the April Air Quality Council meeting for his 33 years of service.*

has become a full-fledged division of DEQ. Milestones in Breisch's service include the development of the state's original State Implementation Plan and Air Toxics programs, the Tulsa Nonattainment SIP, the Alternate Reasonably Available Control Technology for the aviation industry, Prevention of Significant Deterioration, the Title V permitting program, and most recently, a new toxics rule.

Breisch consistently offered logical solutions to complex problems and made the concerns of the citizens of Tulsa his priority. The department holds his dedicated service in highest esteem. ■

## Air Quality Staff Come From All Over the Map!



*Engineers in the AQD Permit Staff: Top Row (left to right): Brooks Kirlin, Dave Dimick, Phil Martin, Richard Keinlin, Constance Burris, Grover Campbell, John Howell, Roya Sharifoltani, Kha Mach. Front Row: David Schutz, Dale Becker, Doug Meese, Iftekar Hossain, Jerry Goochey, Ellis Fischer, Eric Mulligan. Not Pictured: Mark Chen, Judy Cupples, Dejay Famuagun, Phillip Fielder, Dawson Lasseter, Donna Lautzenhiser, Herb Neumann, David Pollard, Lee Warden, Hal Wright, Jian Yue.*

The Air Quality Division's permit and engineering sections are comprised of 29 engineers and one secretary. The sections work as a single unit to construct permits that are as useful, concise and uniform as possible. Although we speak with one voice in the product that we develop, we are proud of our diverse backgrounds. We originally come from cities and towns all across Oklahoma and the U.S., and from other countries

including Nigeria, Iran, Bangladesh, Vietnam, China and Taiwan (even Texas). Collectively we have lived in 23 states and eight foreign countries. Fifty-two percent of us represent minority groups. Since women are typically under-represented in the engineering profession, we are particularly proud that they account for 27 percent of our professionals.

Although 14 of the staff have

*continued*

bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering, we also hold degrees in 12 other engineering disciplines. Ten staff have master's degrees, one has a juris doctorate (J.D.) and two have doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. Nineteen staff are registered professional engineers and one is a certified professional geologist.

Contrary to common belief, engineers do have lives apart from work and computers. Collectively, we have 30 children and five grandchildren. Our hobbies include ocean kayaking, sailing, classical guitar, chess, motorcycles, theater arts, painting, carpentry, travel, teaching, soccer, bridge, professional writing, tutoring, photography, fishing and U.S. military history. Many have served or currently serve in the military and some were raised by career military parents.

Our wide-ranging experiences, varied backgrounds and diverse training combine to provide a staff well equipped to provide the best service possible to Oklahoma citizens and industries. We are proud of whom we are and of our work on the public's behalf. ■

## Spotlight on Outstanding Asian-Pacific Oklahoman

When not on her job as an epidemiologist in DEQ's Land Protection Division, Dr. Evelina Morales is usually busy with activities that maintain her connection with Oklahoma's Asian communities, sharing her Asian-Pacific heritage.



*Dr. Evelina Morales holds her Award for Excellence from the Asia Society of Oklahoma.*

Both the Asia Society of Oklahoma and the Governor's office have formally recognized Morales' leadership and cultural achievements. Morales received the Asia Society of Oklahoma's 2004 Award for Excellence last October 16. The non-profit society represents ten Asian communities that call Oklahoma home, working to raise the aware-

ness and understanding of Asian-Pacific cultures through education and advocacy. Morales received the award in part for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the Philippine-American Civic Organization of Oklahoma. Soon afterward, in December 2004 governor Brad Henry appointed Morales to the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs.

The council's mission is to provide advice and assistance to the governor on policy issues related to the arts, economic development, health and human services, human resource education and other issues affecting Oklahoma's Asian-American population.

Morales expresses her commitment to public service both in her professional work, protecting public health and the environment, and in her contributions to cultural understanding and diversity. Her recognition is well-deserved. ■

## EnvironMentor Receives Media Award

Last September, the DEQ *EnvironMentor* newsletter won the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful media award for 2004. The award recognizes environmental excel-



*(From left to right) Ilda Hershey, DEQ copy editor, Susie Shield, DEQ editor, and Karla Beatty, President of the Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE) and Chair of the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee (OKEECC,) receive the 2004 Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Media Award. Both organizations are sponsors of the EnvironMentor newsletter.*

lence in media. The *EnvironMentor*, a 12-page publication that highlights environmental events, workshops and funding opportunities, was honored at the organization's 14<sup>th</sup> annual awards banquet on November 18, 2004. The newsletter was particularly commended for its wide-ranging coverage, from local to international news, and its broad support among environmental educators. The publication has been a resource for

thousands of teachers and environmentalists for the past eight years. ■

## **Recycle For Woody Guthrie**

Each July, residents of Okemah host the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival to celebrate the birth date of one of Okemah's best-known favorite sons. The event is organized entirely by volunteers and is free to the public. It attracts fans and musicians from across the country. Of course, such events generate a wealth of recyclables. DEQ staff had wanted to demonstrate that recycling in recreational venues can be practical and cost-effective. Where better than at a festival organized and presented entirely by volunteers?

In 2004, DEQ volunteers and festival organizers collaborated to bring recycling to the event. DEQ later estimated that as much as half of the waste generated at the folk festival had been separated and sold to Oklahoma recycling companies. The recycling project created a positive image for Okemah, for DEQ and for Oklahoma. DEQ received an Award of Excellence from Keep Oklahoma Beautiful in recognition of the project's exceptional success. ■



*Steve Thompson, Executive Director (center) and Amber Magdaleno, Land Protection Division (right), receive the Award of Excellence from Tom Creider, President of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (left).*

## **DEQ Helps Tinker Air Force Base Environmental Program Win Honors**

Tinker Air Force Base was doubly honored by the Pentagon in 2004, earning both the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award and the General Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Team Excellence Award. The base was recognized for implementing the best environmental restoration program in the U.S. De-

partment of Defense system. Tinker competed with Navy bases and Army posts nationwide for the awards.

Tinker's Directorate of Environmental Management Restoration Division met the challenge to complete remediation projects in spite of strict budget constraints and without unduly disrupting daily operations. Using relatively inexpensive new technologies (e.g., injection of a lactic acid solution), the Tinker division remediated ground

*continued*



From left to right –Ben Shiau, TAFB consultant, Sara Saylor, TAFB engineer and Robert Replogle, DEQ, monitor a Tinker bioremediation site.

water contaminated with chlorinated solvent under the northwest section of the base. The project was completed at a cost much lower than expected. DEQ's Land Protection Division supported the effort, helping to evaluate and select cutting-edge remedial technologies and monitoring their effectiveness after installation. The monitoring guided system enhancements to achieve and sustain optimal efficiency.

This is the second consecutive year that Tinker Air Force Base has accepted a Department of Defense award. Last year, Tinker's Directorate of Environmental Management won the Secretary of Defense Award for Environmental Excellence. ■

### **Sand Springs Brownfield Site Wins Prestigious Phoenix Award**

The Cimarron Center Redevelopment Project in the City of Sand Springs has received the Phoenix Award for EPA Region 6, for excellence in brownfield redevelopment. The project was nominated for its economic impact. Kucharski Development, LLC, accepted the award. Project participants were honored during the International Brownfields Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, held September 20-22, 2004. Working with the city of Sand Springs, DEQ, Federated Metals and EPA, Kucharski revitalized a vacant property in a depressed area of the city, generating new development inter-



Close-up of the hand-made, crystal Phoenix Award trophies with golden flames in the center.



From left to right – (seated) Kathy and Robert Kucharski, Kucharski Development; Richard Greene, Regional Administrator EPA Region 6; (standing) Rita Kottke, Ph.D., DEQ Land Protection Division; Mike Burdge, Mayor of Sand Springs; and Terry Walters, Sand Springs Director of Economic Development.

est. Sand Springs is now able to move forward with its \$14 million public development plan.

The Phoenix Award is sponsored by The Phoenix Awards Institute, Inc., a nonprofit environmental and community service organization located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Created in 1997, the Phoenix, often called "the brownfield's equivalent of Hollywood's Oscar," is widely recognized as the outstanding award for achievement in brownfield redevelopment. Criteria include the magnitude of the project, use of innovative cleanup techniques, solutions to regulatory issues and impact on the community. An independent panel of environmental professionals and business, academic and government leaders select each year's winners. ■

## DEQ Water Quality Division Employees Receive Awards

Several Water Quality Division staff have been recognized for outstanding service in their fields during fiscal 2005: Jon L. Craig, Chris Wisniewski, Ilda T. Hershey, Mike Harrell and the entire Operator Certification Section.

- Jon L. Craig received the Paul W. Eastman Environmental

Statesman Award from the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) at their annual meeting in Chicago, in August 2004. Craig was honored for exceptional environmental protection leadership and service. At the event, he was commended for his service to ASIWPCA as president, as former two-term vice-president and as a member of the board of directors, as well as for his contributions as chairman of the Watershed and Coastal Task Force and of the Internal Operations Committee. The Eastman Environmental Statesman Award reflects Craig's 33 years with the state of Oklahoma, dedicated to clean water and environmental programs. As Division Director of the Water Quality Division, Craig continues to oversee DEQ's many water programs.

- Chris Wisniewski, Operator Certification Section Manager, received the Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) Agency & Friends of Rural Water Award on April 13, 2005. ORWA recognized Wisniewski for significantly improving the



*ASIWPCA's 2003-2004 President, Alan Vicory, presents the Eastman Environmental Statesman Award to Jon L. Craig, who was declared "a true statesman."*

operator certification testing process, including the introduction of online testing. Wisniewski collaborates with the Water and Wastewater Certification Advisory Council to review and revise DEQ operator certification and training requirements. Through ORWA, the Operator Certification Section helps fund training and assistance for small community water systems and small private systems. Wisniewski was commended for his positive working relationship with ORWA and his commitment to quality statewide training for water and

*continued*



*Wallace Howard, chairman of the ORWA Awards Committee, and Bill Secrest, ORWA president, present the Agency & Friends of Rural Water Award to Chris Wisniewski, DEQ Operator Certification section manager, at their annual meeting April 13 in Tulsa.*

wastewater operators.

- Ilda T. Hershey, Water Quality Environmental Programs Specialist, is the 2005 recipient of the Environmental Science Graduate Program Alumni Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement, presented by Oklahoma State University. Hershey's exceptional work at DEQ and in the Sustainable Stillwater and Oklahoma Sustainability Network organizations earned her the prestigious award. In addition to her regular duties, Hershey leads the DEQ Green Team, an informal employee group dedicated to improving the agency's internal environmental performance. Hershey co-chaired the state-wide Oklahoma Sustainability Network annual conference and was treasurer for four years. As vice-president of Sustainable Stillwater, Hershey has been active in community projects such as strategic planning roundtables, Blue Thumb storm-drain marking, recycling centers and environmental outreach. The award is presented annually to an OSU program graduate with an outstanding record of cross-disciplinary accomplishment in the environmental



*Ilda Hershey at the 4th Annual Oklahoma Sustainability Conference.*



*Mike Harrell displays his Arkansas Traveler Award.*



*Below: Oscar B. Jackson, Jr., Administrator and Cabinet Secretary of Human Resources and Administration with the Office of Personnel Management, presented DEQ staff members Kristi Sanger, Angela Ratcliff and Chris Wisniewski with the Governor's Commendation for Excellence Award.*

profession, and who has enabled other OSU graduates to succeed.

- On April 28, 2005, Mike Harrell, Compliance Tracking and Public Water Supply Administration Section Manager, accepted the Arkansas Traveler Award from Stan Benton, Chairman of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association. The award was presented during the organization's annual conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, recognizing Harrell for his distinguished accomplishments in the field. For his contributions, Harrell was also recognized by Arkansas as an Ambassador of Goodwill.
- The DEQ Operator Certification Licensure Program Team was presented with the Governor's Commendation for Excellence Award, recognizing the team's development of operator-certification online testing. Team members sharing the honor are Kristi Sanger, Angela Ratcliff, Chris Wisniewski, Jeff Hoogendoorn and Rance Shields. The award was presented on Quality Oklahoma Team Day 2005 held at the State Capitol on May 5. ■

## Natural Evolution Awarded DEQ's First-Ever Gold OKStar for Environmental Excellence

Natural Evolution, a Tulsa electronics recycling business, has received DEQ's first-ever Oklahoma Star Incentive award, the OKStar, in recognition of the firm's "green" policies and actions. Natural Evolution helps consumers divert unwanted computers from the waste stream. Instead of disposing of them in landfills, ways are found to reallocate and recycle used electronic equipment and components as cost-effectively and process-efficiently as possible. The company, which does not charge for its services, believes that "what's good for your business is also good for our earth." DEQ awarded the OKStar to Natural Evolution in March 2005.

The Environmental Performance and Recognition Program (EPRP) awards the OKStar. EPRP is managed by DEQ Pollution Prevention (P2) staff, who open the award cycle each year with participant education and training. Dr. Jeff Weinrach began this year's cycle on June 30, 2004, announcing EPRP and OKStar criteria to representatives of Tinker and Vance Air Force bases, the State Department of Commerce, Okla-



*Attendees at EPRP criteria training*

homa Small Business Development Centers (OSBDC), the city of Oklahoma City and private sector facilities.

In October, Dr. Robert Pojasek presented *Tools for Improving Environmental Performance*, a workshop

attended by representatives from manufacturing, petroleum refining, consulting groups, a local government and a citizen environmental group. Also in October, P2 offered related workshops with logistical sup-

*continued*



*Natural Evolution's Traci Phillips surveys displays at OSN annual conference.*

port from OSBDC. More than 60 individuals gathered in Oklahoma City's new Ron Norick Public Library and Tulsa's Hardesty Library to get acquainted with the manual, *How to Inventory Your Waste for Environmental Compliance*.

P2-sponsored training and awards are meant to support businesses and organizations in achieving their environmental excellence goals

and to make the public aware of their achievements. Congratulations to Natural Evolution for its visionary work and for being the first business ever to win the OKStar award.

For further information on these and other P2 activities, go to the DEQ Web site, [deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/p2.htm](http://deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/p2.htm). ■

## DEQ Staff National Leaders

This year, DEQ senior staff and managers have been elected and appointed to leadership positions in several national environmental organizations. Their work allows Oklahoma's regulators to be well-informed on environmental issues and to influence development of national policies and practices. DEQ is fortunate to be staffed by such a large number of nationally recognized experts. The benefits of the department's national involvement extend to the regulated community in Oklahoma, which can be assured that state regulators are aware of pending federal policy changes that will affect their operations. This allows DEQ to begin education and outreach programs earlier, giving facilities more time to obtain necessary funding and to upgrade or update treatment practices. These DEQ leaders are listed in the table on the right. ■

DEQ Leadership Positions			
DIV	STAFF	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
AQD	Eddie Terrill	Vice-President	State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA)
CSD	Judy Duncan	Board of Directors	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC)
CSD	Monty Elder	President	National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials (NASTTPO)
CSD	Dianne Wilkins	Committee Chair and Board Liaison for Environmental Justice	National Pollution Prevention Roundtable
WQD	Jon Craig	Board of Directors	Ground Water Protection Council
WQD	Jon Craig	Legislative Committee	Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA)
WQD	Carl Parrott	Collection System Committee	Water Environment Federation
WQD	Carl Parrott	Awards Committee	Water Environment Federation
WQD	Carl Parrott	Program Committee	Water Environment Federation
WQD	Chris Wisniewski	Board of Directors	Association of Boards of Certification (ABC)
EDO	Shellie Chard-McClary	Collection System Committee	Water Environment Federation
EDO	Shellie Chard-McClary	Government Affairs Committee	Water Environment Federation
EDO	Steve Thompson	President	Environmental Council of States
LPD	Catherine Sharp	Board Member	Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials
LPD	Catherine Sharp	Commissioner	Central Interstate Low Level Waste Commission
LPD	Mike Broderick	Board Member	Organization of Agreement States
LPD	Pam Bishop	Chair of the SR-G Task Force "Use of Radioisotopes in the Healing Arts"	Conference of Radiation Control Compact Program Directors
LPD	Saba Tahmassebi	Board of Advisors	Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)
LPD	Susie Shields	Educational Advisory Committee	National Earth Day Network
LPD	Susie Shields	Regional Editor	Green Teacher Magazine
LPD	Jarrett Keck	Point of Contact for Oklahoma	Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)

# DEQ Support Staff: Proficient, Versatile and Indispensable

DEQ is an agency of techno-geeks, science nerds and policy wonks reliant on the agency's cadre of support personnel – indispensable assistants without whom no project would ever be completed. They are often the first voices the public hears when calling or visiting the agency –

on a snow day, perhaps the only voices. Support staff daily manage and direct hundreds of individual communications, maintain electronic data and print files and records, deliver the mail, maintain the facilities, schedule and coordinate logistics for council and public

meetings, keep the agency stocked with essential supplies, manage travel arrangements, track the money and make sure that everyone gets paid on time, orchestrate activities, support and perform technical functions...the list of supporting roles and responsibilities is long and diverse.

Support staff are proficient in their specialty areas, but also are among the most multi-skilled and versatile DEQ employees. The department employs full-time support staff in positions such as secretaries, clerks, administrative assistants, tech-

*continued*



*The support team for Environmental Complaints and Local Services (left to right): Pam Bateman, Traci Martin, Misty Johnson, Jennifer Robbins, John Lloyd and Janie Bender.*



*Tulsa Regional Office support staff: Linda Haltam, Air Quality, and Linda Gentry, ECLS.*



*Water Quality Division support staff. Top Row (left to right): Karl Heinzig, Robin Bankhead, Stan Johnson, Melvin Tucker. Middle Row: Bridgett Griffin, Shannon Lowery, Lydia Brown, Jacob Booth. Middle Row: Jeremiah Meritt, Della Farris, Jorita Brazeal, Ramona Haggins, Sara Orwig, Florence Fields. Front Row: Cara Magott, Kim Wyatt, Cheryl Dirk, Vinette Packhorse, Angela Ball, Gloria Richardson.*



*CSD Support Staff (left to right): Barbie Axtell, Ilze Veidemane, Joann Campbell, Danette Baker, Mary Wyatt. Not pictured, Jeremy Ehrenich, Amanda Gales, Tresy Ross.*



*Land Protection support staff (left to right): Hope Kelly, Dale McHard, Linda Yarber, Patricia Chawla, Kathy Collins, Renee McConnell.*



*Air Quality Division support staff (left to right): Cindy Waddell, Maria Maynard, Kerri Housley, Julie McWhirter, Gail George, Deb Carter. Not pictured, Alisha Booth, Tyler Franks, Latoya Green, Melissa McGuire and Deanna Packhorse.*



More Land Protection support staff (left to right): Tyler Haas, Mary Johnson, Sherry Batchelor, Cindy Gutierrez, Austin Sims. Not pictured, Shirley Brown, Amber Magdaleno, Michelle Parish

nicians, maintenance personnel and many others. DEQ also employs temporary staff and interns for peak work loads and special needs. For some, a support position is a way to develop an understanding of a technically advanced environmental field and to gain agency experience, a step along a career path. For many, their current positions are satisfying career destinations. All are expert at public service. DEQ is fortunate to have talented, knowledgeable support staff at work throughout the agency. ■



Executive Director's Office support staff (left to right): Amber Downs, Jennifer Wright, Cyndi Phillips.



Legal support staff Sandra McClain and Debbie Ray. Not pictured, Sandy Beck



Administrative Services support staff, Back Row: Clayton Bettes, Desiree' Dew, Matthew Potter, Larry Stevenson, Dennis Echard, Delilah Morehead, Kendall Kelton. Front Row: Elroy Lewis, Michele Pollot, Phil Emrich, Thu Nguyen, Sandra McClain, Ellen Akin, Linda Fine, Cliff Lawson.

# Records Management Section Becomes a Reality

Members of the general public, DEQ employees and other stakeholders have waited a long time for a quiet, library-style environment in which to read and research environmental records. Ideally, this place would be a center for all department records. For efficiency's sake, all record management functions including record review, copying and invoicing would occur in this single location.

Now that vision has materialized as a one-stop center for DEQ

record requests, on the agency's sixth floor. The Records Management Section has streamlined procedures and provides quiet space for record review. A uniform request process allows staff to fill an average of 800 internal and external requests every month, from copies of soil "perc" tests to complex, multi-division facility histories. Records Management staff are always available to assist the public and DEQ employees with their records requests. ■



*Employees Linda Fine, Sandra McClain and Rhonda Craig review records in the new Central Records File Review Center.*

## Employee Team "Greens" DEQ

For the past two years, a group of DEQ employees has been devoting the lunch hour to improving environmental stewardship within the department. With support and encouragement from agency management, the volun-

tary group has evolved into the DEQ Green Team, an informal committee of representatives from all divisions. Echoing the agency's mission to pursue "a clean, attractive, prosperous Oklahoma," the Green Team pur-

sues a clean, attractive, prosperous DEQ.

Team members brainstorm creative ways to encourage good stewardship – to reduce office waste, increase energy efficiency, install low-maintenance landscap-

ing and involve more employees. DEQ asks others to be good stewards, so it makes sense that its employees should follow their own advice at home and at work. For example, although for years the agency has been recycling paper,

cardboard, aluminum, plastic and glass, the Green Team found other materials to divert from the landfill, as well.

- Employees use the team's buckets to take home spent coffee grounds from coffee machines to feed compost piles and gardens.
- Team members collect copier and printer paper wrappers for schools and art centers to reuse for arts and crafts.
- DEQ separates batteries from other waste for appropriate disposal.
- Members are researching the effects of fluorescent bulb disposal.

Green Team members remove barriers to conservation wherever they find them. They encourage reuse of office and conference supplies, and maintain a collection of reusable coffee mugs and name badge holders. To promote resource conservation, team members report leaky faucets, turn off unneeded lighting and provide instructions for printing and copying double-sided documents. The team periodically posts new energy and resource efficiency tips to the agency's electronic employee bulletin board. No opportunity to help DEQ be more environ-

mentally responsible is overlooked. Even used sneakers have been collected and donated to Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program, a project that turns old shoes into Nike Grind, a rubbery composite used for running, court and other athletic surfaces.

The team sponsors a brown-bag lunch discussion as a once-a-month venue for employee outreach. The informal lunches feature a brief presentation followed by facilitated discussion. All employees are welcome and encouraged to bring a waste-free lunch with reusable food and drink containers and utensils. To date, employee discussions have explored the following topics:

- Rainwater Harvesting, with Evelina Morales, Land Protection Division
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles, with Brandy Winget and Janet Gaylor, State Fleet Program
- Green Design and Sustainability, with Jay Yowell, Oklahoma Sustainability Network
- Organic Gardening and Composting, with Fenton Rood, Land Protection Division
- Wind Power, with David Branecky, OGE Energy Corporation
- Water Conservation, with Mike



*Multi-arts students use DEQ copy paper wrappers to make book covers and trading card holders.*

- Harrell, Water Quality Division
  - Ozone Alerts, with Curt Goeller and Pat Sullivan, Air Quality Division
- When the Green Team turned its attention to DEQ's Oklahoma City building and parking lot grounds, members contacted a local university for advice. The plan now under consideration would feature indigenous landscaping, a butterfly garden and interpretive signage. The signage would intro-

duce the use of the region's native plants that, once established, would require little water, fertilizer or pesticide. Team members have already installed low-maintenance vegetation in planters outside the building.

The goal of the DEQ Green Team is to promote an agency-wide culture of environmental stewardship and increased environmental awareness. Walking

*continued*

their talk, agency employees are taking pride in their own conservation practices and setting a good example. ■

*Green Team members plant flowers in front of the Oklahoma City office in planters made of plastic lumber.*

## Beyond Recycling

### Green Team Initiatives

Quantities collected in a one-year period

Spent coffee grounds 341 gallons

Copy paper wrapper 275 pounds

Old newspaper 1,822 pounds



# DEQ - A Good Neighbor

Since moving to its present downtown Oklahoma City location in 1998, DEQ has become familiar with the community and its needs. Just months after moving

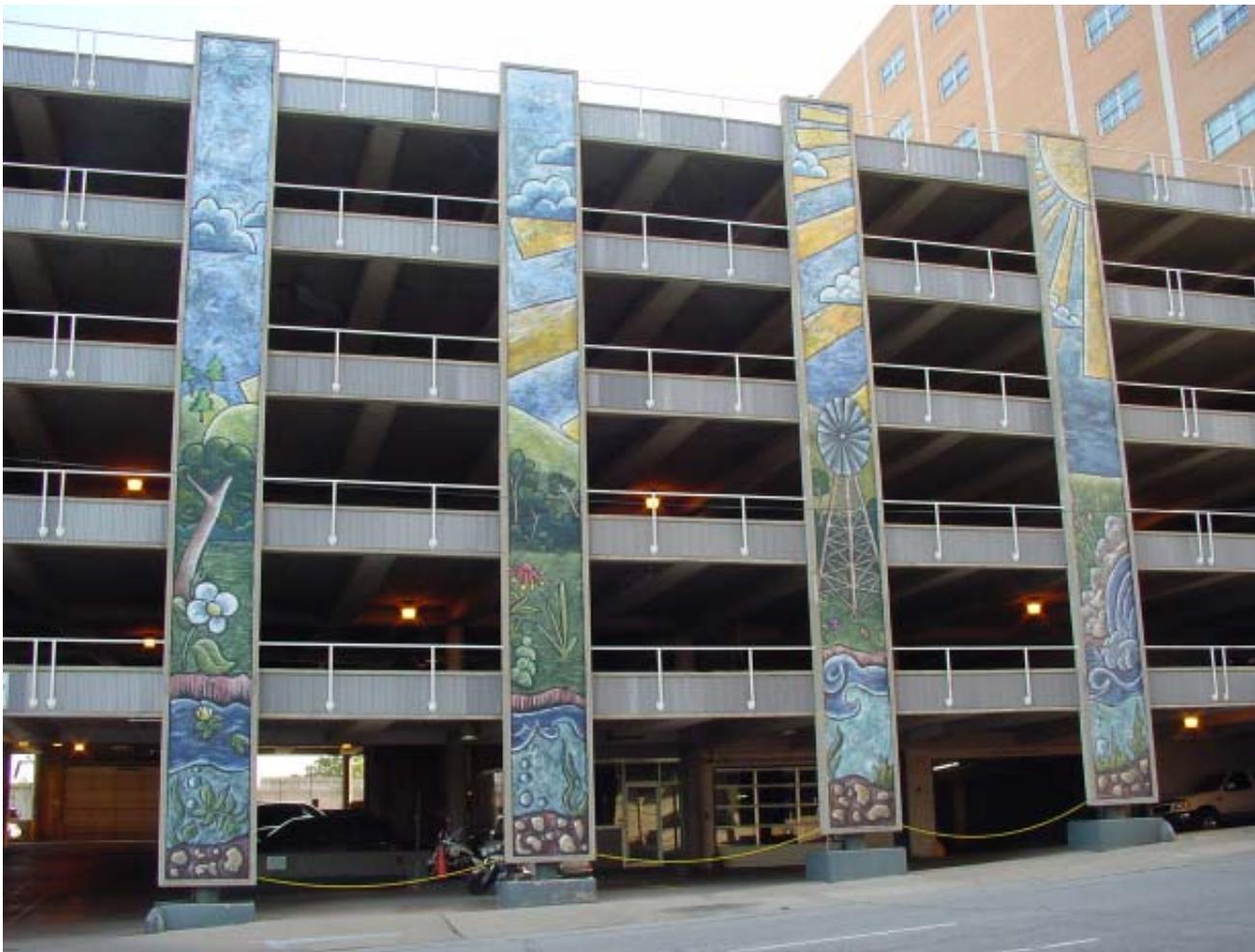
in, employees began collecting new toys for the Salvation Army to distribute to disadvantaged neighborhood children. In 2003, employees began collecting nonperish-

able food and personal care products during the holiday season, donating them to St. Paul's Episcopal Church located across the street. The church uses the supplies,

which support needy families for about a month. Such annual activities are now DEQ traditions.

The summer of 2004 was an artful one for DEQ, which chose two projects to show its community spirit: a mural and a buffalo sculpture. The Sixth Street parking garage exterior was transformed by University of Central Oklahoma Art Professor Bob Palmer and his students, who installed a four-panel mural representing air, land and water. Facing the A.P. Murrah National Memorial entry, the DEQ mural sends an inspiring environ-

*continued*



*DEQ parking garage facade transformed into a mural.*



*Sally Perry Plummer's "Earth, Wind and Water Buffalo."*

tal reminder to visitors and local residents alike. DEQ also participated in The Nature Conservancy's public art exhibit, *The Spirit of the Buffalo*. Artist Sally Perry Plummer designed DEQ's buffalo, later named "Earth, Wind and Water Buffalo" by a vote of agency employees. The buffalo sculpture first joined the temporary exhibit's herd of 109 that roamed city-wide. It now winters in the DEQ lobby, then returns to its post at the corner of Robinson and NW 7<sup>th</sup>.

DEQ employees took to the streets in spring 2005, joining the Oklahoma City Adopt-A-City-Street program. Four times a year, during the lunch break, employees collect litter from Park Avenue to NW 10<sup>th</sup> along Robinson Avenue, and from North Walker beyond Broadway on 6<sup>th</sup>. During their first patrol, they removed 22 bags of trash and 2 bags of recyclable items from the area.

As a new member of the Arts District Association, in 2005 DEQ will help develop the District's identity. The Arts District of downtown Oklahoma City includes the Civic Center, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Myriad Gardens, Cox Convention Center, Ford Center Arena and A.P. Murrah National Memorial. The



association focuses on ensuring and improving economic value, beauty and safety in the area, partly by coordinating events such as arts festivals and other public activities. DEQ employees are proud to be part of downtown Oklahoma City and will continue to be a positive force in the community. ■



Above left: DEQ employees set out to clean up the streets. Above right: The official "Adopt-A-Street" sign notifying the public of DEQ cleanup activities.

Left: David Dyke assisting fellow DEQ employees during an Adopt-A-Street cleanup event, early 2005.

# DEQ Opts for Money and Energy Savings in Building Operation and Maintenance

Effective construction planning and a reasonably efficient physical plant have benefited DEQ, dating from 1997 when the facility was renovated for the department's use. Time and growth, however, have required replacement of older components and modernization of others. Each project has been an opportunity to implement DEQ management's vision of using energy-efficient, cost-effective techniques and technologies, while maintaining a professional, user-friendly physical work environment. The following are examples of how that vision has materialized.

- Offered an opportunity to power the agency in part with efficient, environmentally friendly electricity generated by wind power, the agency purchased the maximum amount allowed by statute.
- Faced with replacing an air conditioning chiller, the agency chose a competitively priced design that would reduce energy consumption over its useful lifetime. Energy savings

alone are expected to reimburse the older unit's replacement cost within 18 to 24 months.

- The agency recently upgraded the software for its computerized heating and cooling management system. The system now controls temperatures more effectively in the various zones of the building while saving energy and money.
- DEQ's shipping-and-receiving area has been redesigned to substantially reduce loss of conditioned air to the outdoors. The former 30-foot overhead door, used for all deliveries, has been exchanged for a 20-foot overhead door and an 8-foot delivery door. The modest change will pay for itself within two years and then will continue to deliver energy savings.
- To hedge against increasing energy costs and the potential need eventually to replace the entire climate control system, the agency purchased a tap into the chilled water and steam



*New chiller being installed.*

lines being constructed for the new Federal and Journal Record buildings. Taking this opportunity will lower DEQ's long-range energy costs.

- DEQ routinely uses energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs and fixtures. Within the past year, older water faucets have been replaced with fixtures less prone to leaking.

- Rather than contract for routine maintenance, DEQ hires temporary workers to replace worn and damaged carpet and to repaint common areas at one-third the cost. Maintenance is scheduled outside normal business hours, so the regular business day is not disrupted.
- Two maintenance employees keep common and employee

*continued*

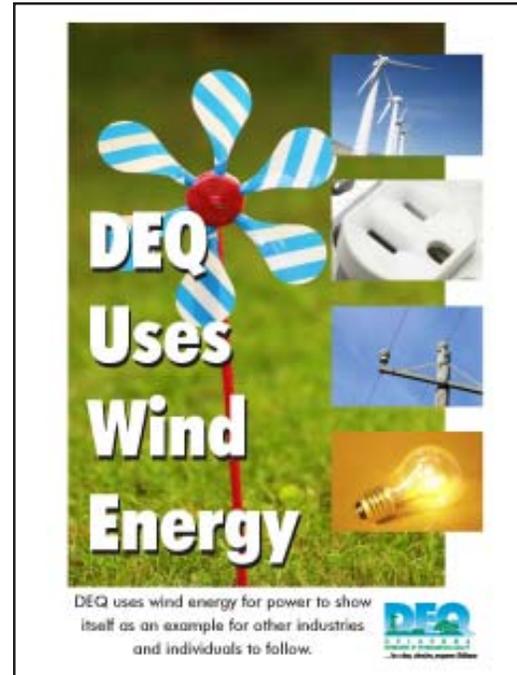
areas clean and litter-free, saving wear on the building and furnishings and maintaining a professional work environment.

Together with overseeing its private sector security and house-keeping contracts, DEQ's use of effi-

cient technologies and practices makes responsible use of the agency's operational resources. DEQ takes pride in modeling the energy-efficient, cost-effective building operations and maintenance practices that it promotes. ■



*Elroy Lewis and Larry Steveson, building custodians, help maintain a professional, user-friendly workplace for DEQ employees.*



*Phill Sanger, Building Operations, checks out the new software for the computerized heating and cooling management system.*

# Environmental Education Grants Funded by Oklahoma License Plates



Garden of Tranquility at Jackson Middle School.

Oklahoma teachers and youth leaders are eligible to apply for grant funds to promote opportunities to learn about environmental issues. Grant applications can be found on the DEQ Web site, [www.deq.state.ok.us](http://www.deq.state.ok.us). The grant is meant to equip teachers and youth leaders to promote awareness and excitement about the environment and to facilitate learning about environmental issues. Applicants may apply in any of three categories: outdoor classroom grants (\$1000), environmental education project grants (\$500) and high school environmental education field trips (\$200). Grants are competitive, based on criteria outlined in the grant proposal.

Grant funds come from the sale of the Oklahoma Environmental Education vehicle license tag. The newest version features the state wildflower, the *Gaillardia pulchella*, commonly known as Indian Blanket. Individuals may apply for the tag by contacting their local tag agency or DEQ's Land

Protection Division. Since the grant program's inception in 1993, more than \$150,000 has been distributed to schools, church youth groups, 4-H Club leaders, conservation districts and other youth educators to help pay for environmental education projects.

The Environmental Quality Education Committee (EQEC), working with DEQ, sponsors the program. The education committee is comprised of state agency representatives, teachers, business people, and industry representatives. Its mission is to help the general public become more aware of actions and activities that will help, preserve and protect Oklahoma's environment. ■



Above is a sample of one of the two environmental license plates available.

# OKEECC Prepares 10-Year Report



*Members of the 2005 Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee.*

The Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee (OKEECC) has delivered a 10-year report on the organization's accomplishments to Oklahoma legislators and participating government agency directors. The

committee is comprised of governmental agencies within Oklahoma that are active in environmental education. The committee's mission is to foster public awareness and appreciation of Oklahoma's natural resources by coordinating

environmental education efforts. Oklahoma's Department of Environmental Quality has been especially active in the committee's work since its inception.

The coordinating committee was formed when the Oklahoma

Legislature passed the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act of 1992 (House Bill 2227). The committee's initial goal was to establish a coordinating network for environmental education programs in order to eliminate duplication of effort and to make better use of state resources. The 10-year report documents the committee's history and membership and describes its numerous projects, many of which could not have been achieved by a single agency acting alone.

The key to success for OKEECC has been its members' steadfast commitment to deliver environmental education through networking, cooperation, coordination and regular initiation of fresh programs. The committee has not only achieved its initial goal of eliminating duplication of programming, but it has provided a model for cooperation among government agencies. In 2004, OKEECC was recognized by the Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education, receiving its Outstanding Organization Award. ■