



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

April 22, 2021

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Announces that the Draft 2020 Integrated Report, “Water Quality in Oklahoma”, is Available for Review

The 30-day Public Comment Period Begins on April 22, 2021

**A Virtual Public Meeting to Discuss the Report has been
Scheduled at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**The Public Comment Period Ends at
4:30 PM on Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

PURPOSE

The [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) has prepared the draft 2020 Integrated Report, “*Water Quality in Oklahoma*”. This Notice is to inform the public about:

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

WHAT IS THE “INTEGRATED REPORT”?

The Integrated Report combines into one document the reporting requirements under the [Federal Clean Water Act \(CWA\)](#) Section 305(b) - *Surface Water Quality Assessment* - and the reporting requirements under CWA Section 303(d) - *List of Impaired Waters*.

The *Water Quality Assessment Report* is a biennial (once every two years) assessment of both impaired and non-impaired waterbodies. The methods used to develop the Integrated Report are described in the [Continuing Planning Process](#) (CPP). One goal of the CPP is to provide an objective and scientifically sound waterbody assessment listing methodology. The CWA requires states to develop [Water Quality Standards](#) (WQS) and have designated beneficial uses assigned to all waterbodies. These uses of water are for things such as drinking, fishing, swimming, recreation, aesthetics, and agriculture. The designated beneficial uses for all Oklahoma waterbodies are listed in Appendix A of [Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards](#).

The CPP includes guidelines of how waterbodies are placed in one of five categories depending how well their designated uses are attained. The proposed placement of Oklahoma waterbodies into these categories based on their assessment can be found in Appendix B (*Comprehensive Waterbody Assessment*) of Oklahoma's draft 2020 Integrated Report.

Based on the WQS, DEQ develops plans with goals and pollution control targets for improving water quality where minimum standards are not met. The waterbodies where these minimum standards are not met are considered to be "impaired." Impaired waterbodies are listed on what is known as the [303\(d\)](#) List, which refers to section 303(d) of the CWA. Oklahoma's 303(d) *List of Impaired Waters* is found in Appendix C of the draft 2020 Integrated Report. The plan to improve water quality for impaired waterbodies is accomplished by establishing limits known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for each pollutant exceeding the standards. TMDLs set levels for pollutants that allow waterbodies to achieve their WQS for beneficial uses. Oklahoma TMDL reports can be found at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/tmdl/completed-tmdls/>.

PUBLIC MEETING

DEQ will hold an informal Public Meeting regarding the draft 2020 Integrated Report, *Water Quality in Oklahoma*. The meeting will consist of a short presentation, an informal question and answer session (staff from DEQ and other involved State agencies will be available to address any questions), and an opportunity to make and/or submit official public comments for the record. **The Public Meeting will be held virtually at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.** For more information please visit <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/integrated-report/>.

HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT

DEQ invites your comments. This is a draft document and is subject to change based on comments received during the public participation process. All official comments for the record must be submitted either in writing or by e-mail before the end of the comment period or orally at the Public Meeting. For clarity, written comments are preferred. DEQ will prepare a responsiveness summary addressing all comments received. Then the 2020 Integrated Report will be modified, if needed, and submitted to EPA for final approval.

The comment period will be open for 30 days. **In order for comments to be considered, they must be received before 4:30 PM on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.** If you have any comments regarding the draft 2020 Integrated Report, please submit your comments in writing to:

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

HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

- Information about Oklahoma's Integrated Water Quality Assessment and the draft 2020 Integrated Report can be found at the following DEQ web site: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/integrated-report/>.
- A printed copy may be checked out on loan from the DEQ office in Oklahoma City for copying at your own expense. Printed copies may be purchased from the DEQ OKC office, with advanced notice, at a cost of \$70.00.
- For further information, contact Nicole Newcomer at (405) 702-8290.

You are receiving this notice because you are either on DEQ's list to receive all public notices, or you requested notices about the Integrated Report. In addition to the Integrated Report, DEQ's Watershed Planning & Stormwater Permitting Section sends out public notices about proposed wasteload allocations (208s), proposed TMDLs, 404 projects, 401 Certification requests, stormwater permits, and proposed changes in the CPP.

If you would like to receive any or all of these public notices via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if you want to receive notices for the entire State or just for your [watershed](#).



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