DEQ
Board &
Councils

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY BOARD
ADVISORY COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR’S
OFFICE
DEQ FUNDING
DIVISIONS
RULEMAKING

SEPTEMBER 2021
EQ was founded in 1993. Previously, state level environmental regulations occurred under the Environmental Health Branch of the Oklahoma State Department of Health. On July 1, 1993, DEQ opened its doors for the first time as its own agency. DEQ administers environmental regulations for the state, responds to natural and environmental disasters, assists citizens and businesses, and oversees numerous other programs.
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The Oklahoma Legislature established the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). It's comprised of Oklahoma citizens to provide guidance to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Board members have a variety of backgrounds in manufacturing, hazardous waste management, solid waste management, petroleum industry, agriculture, water usage, conservation, rural water systems, pollution control, municipal government, and statewide environmental groups. These members are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate and serve a five-year term. Upon completion of their five-year term, board members can be reappointed. The Environmental Quality Board is subject to the Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act. The board's responsibilities include:

- Serving as the rulemaking body for DEQ
- Assisting with policy
- Approving budget requests
- Providing recommendations to the legislature
- Providing public forum opportunities
- Appointing the DEQ executive director & fixing compensation
DEQ has five advisory councils that are responsible for rule-making. Members are appointed due to their knowledge and background. As a member, each individual represents their industry as a whole. Council membership is broken down as follows:

**AIR QUALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Realm</th>
<th>Appointing Official</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Utilities</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<td>Local Government</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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**HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Realm</th>
<th>Appointing Official</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Subdivision</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Non-Profit Environmental Association</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Generating Hazardous Waste</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Subdivision</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Waste Industry</td>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
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**Solid Waste Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Realm</th>
<th>Appointing Official</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Organization</td>
<td>Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Profession</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Generating Solid Waste</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Subdivision</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Disposal Industry</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste-to-Energy Industry</td>
<td>Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advisory Council**

- General Public: Governor
- Engineering: Governor
- Private Laboratory: Governor
- Statewide Environmental Organization: Governor
- Industry: Pro Tempore
- Oil Field Related: Pro Tempore
- Geology: Pro Tempore
- Operator for Municipal Waterworks or Wastewater Works Facility: Pro Tempore
- Agriculture: Speaker of the House
- Rural Water District: Speaker of the House
- Operator in Rural Water or Sewer District: Speaker of the House
- Local Government: Speaker of the House
Several major federal environmental programs can be delegated to states for implementation and enforcement. DEQ administers most delegable elements of the federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Clean Air Act. In delegated programs, federal requirements are generally adopted by reference into state rules.
DEQ's Executive Director is Scott Thompson. The Executive Director has many duties, including: directing agency policy; overseeing agency administration; representing the agency in intergovernmental interaction; directing agency response to high-profile issues; and issuing enforcement orders and Tier III permits.

DEQ's Deputy Executive Director is Jimmy Givens. His responsibilities include: managing day-to-day issues; serving as the direct manager for Division Directors and others; assisting the Executive Director with policy, especially internal policies and legislation; and representing and acting on behalf of the Executive Director at his direction or in his absence.

Rob Singletary is DEQ's Chief of Staff. He is responsible for assisting the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director in the administration of the agency. He works with the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director to oversee the development, communication and implementation of policy for the agency. He provides oversight of the agency's environmental program divisions and the Criminal Investigation Unit.
DEQ's Chief Engineer is Saba Tahmassebi. The Chief Engineer provides guidance and promotes consistency across the agency on technical issues; helps identify process improvements, especially with respect to environmental permitting; serves as technical ombudsman for permitting and enforcement actions; and communicates with federal counterparts to help shape federal rules, policies and initiatives.

DEQ’s Legislative Liaison is Michelle Wynn. As Legislative Liaison, she spearheads the agency’s efforts and input on legislation, legislative hearings/studies, etc; is the principal contact for informational inquiries, constituent referrals, etc. from the Governor’s office, legislators, and members of Congress; and maintains communications with other liaisons, lobbyists, and stakeholders on matters of mutual interest.

DEQ’s General Counsel is Jennifer Boyle. She provides legal counsel to the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, oversees agency rulemaking and enforcement processes, manages and directs DEQ’s legal staff, and supervises the Board and Councils Secretary. Office of General Counsel lawyers provide legal services to the agency as a whole. Most OGC lawyers focus on a particular regulatory division.

Skylar McElhaney is DEQ’s Director of Continuous Improvement. She oversees agency implementation of process innovation and continuous improvement initiatives designed to improve operational performance and customer service. Her work helps DEQ achieve goals detailed in the agency’s five-year strategic plan, which results in better communication and response to Oklahomans.

Erin Hatfield is the Director of the Office of Communications & Education. She is responsible for managing DEQ’s brand by working with news media, creating content for social media platforms, and overseeing all of the agency’s publications and environmental education outreach. Through these efforts, she ensures DEQ is effectively communicating its message to the public.

Lloyd Kirk is Director for the Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs. The Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs provides customer assistance, permit and technical assistance, compliance assistance and regulatory assistance to the regulated community, especially businesses and business-related organizations.
The Administrative Services Division has four main responsibilities. This includes Human Resources, Financial Management (including Budgets, Payables & Grants; Revenue Management; and Acquisitions & Procurement), Central Records Management, and Building Management.

The Air Quality Division oversees a number of DEQ’s regulatory programs. These include air monitoring and modeling; permitting; compliance & enforcement; emissions inventory; the Lead-Based Paint Program; the Ozone & Particulate Matter Watch & Advisory Program; and delegated federal programs.

The federal programs delegated to DEQ’s Air Quality Division include National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS), New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT), Title V, Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), and Lead-Based Paint.
Land Protection Division

The Land Protection Division’s responsibilities can be split into two groups: Permitting & Compliance, and Cleanup Programs. Permitting & Compliance oversees the solid waste, hazardous waste, underground injection, and radiation sections. Cleanup Programs include the Superfund, Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup Programs, and the Site Cleanup Assistance Program.

Water Quality Division

DEQ’s Water Quality Division has a number of responsibilities. WQD protects the quality of waters in the state under the Clean Water Act, overseeing approximately 1,900 wastewater systems, 1,500 storm water permits, 125 TMDLs per year, and 370 construction permits per year. WQD also ensures that the public has safe drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act, overseeing 1,700 systems and issuing 860 construction permits per year. They oversee operators of water and wastewater facilities throughout the state – a total of 3,000 operators and 12,000 licenses. They issue 140 Water Reuse Permits. They also oversee infrastructure funding for publicly-owned water and wastewater facilities.
The Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division has offices throughout the state. They respond to environmental complaints received by DEQ's 24-hour, toll-free Environmental Complaints Hotline (1-800-522-0206). ECLS provides technical and customer assistance to regulated entities and the public, and is responsible for regulating individual and small public sewage systems, certified installers, certified soil profilers, highway remediation contractors, septage pumpers and haulers, total retention lagoons, stormwater systems, and minor water systems.

The State Environmental Laboratory Services responsibilities consist of two main areas: the SELS core functions, and program and customer support. Core functions of this division include running the State Environmental Laboratory, which handles Organics and Inorganics (General Chemistry, Metals & Radiochemistry, Environmental Microbiology). The lab also serves as an EPA Designated Principal Laboratory, oversees the Laboratory Accreditation Program, and provides customer assistance in the realms of sample management and sample assistance. Program and Customer Support includes providing assistance to Public Water Supplies, Wastewater Systems; solid and hazardous waste programs; Superfund and other cleanup sites; testing for mercury in fish; testing related to environmental complaints; providing BUMP & Groundwater Monitoring, and Surface Water Monitoring for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; testing for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission; testing for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and US Fish and Wildlife Services; assistance with Harmful Algal Blooms; testing for environmental threats to public health; testing private water; and providing tribal assistance.

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DEQ’s funding comes from three main sources. These are:

- Revolving Fund (licenses, permits, and other fees charged by DEQ)
  - Air Pollution Control Annual Operating
  - Air Annual Operating
  - Air Pollution Control Application
  - Air Permit Application
  - CAFO/MACO (VCP)
  - Contractual Lab Analysis
  - E-Waste Recycling
  - Environmental Awareness License Plate
  - Grant Reimbursement for Lab Analysis
  - Hazardous Waste
  - Highway Remediation Licensing
  - Industrial & Municipal PDES
  - Industrial X-Ray (Radiation)
  - Lab Accreditation
  - Lead Abatement Certification
  - Minor Public Water Supply System
  - On-Site Sewage Treatment System Installation Certification
  - Operator Certification
  - Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund
  - Plan Review
  - Private Sewage
  - Private Water Analysis
  - Private Water Well Inspection
  - Public Water Supply (Annual)
  - Public Water Supply Lab
  - Radiation Management
  - SARA Title III
  - Total Retention Lagoon
  - Septage Pumper and Transporters
  - Soil Profiler License
  - Solid Waste
  - Stormwater
  - Tire Recycling
  - Underground Injection Control Permits

- Federal Grants
- State Appropriations

Four DEQ programs are partially funded by state appropriations. They are:

- PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY
- WASTEWATER
- STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS

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