

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**NOTICE – DRAFT PERMIT**

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received an application for a permit for a new solid waste processing facility to accept, store, and treat regulated medical waste and other non-hazardous industrial wastes (NHIW) at OK Medical Waste Disposal, 475 Neil Boulevard, Harrah, OK 73045. The legal location is described as Lot 3 of Block 2 of the HARRAH INDUSTRIAL PARK, as shown by the final plat thereof, being a part of Section 1, Township 11 North, Range 1 East of the I.M., Oklahoma County, Oklahoma (approximately 5 acres). The application was filed by OK Medical Waste Disposal, LLC, PO BOX 1833, Tulsa, OK 74101 on February 3, 2020.

The DEQ has tentatively found that the application meets the requirements of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 2-1-101, *et seq.*, Section 2-10-101, *et seq.*, and rules of the DEQ, Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC), Title 252, Chapters 4 and 515, and has prepared a draft permit for public review.

The draft permit and its conditions propose that the facility will accept, store, and treat regulated medical waste to achieve microbial inactivity prior to disposal. The applicant also requested a variance to OAC 252:515-23-31(b) to accept specific types of NHIW (such as medical records, non-hazardous pharmaceuticals), and Medical Marijuana Waste (as defined in 63 O.S. § 428.1) in accordance with OAC 252:4-7-60(3). More detail is given below.

If the application is approved, OK Medical Waste Disposal will construct, operate, and maintain an approximately 10,000 square-foot facility on five acres described above with driveways, parking, and aesthetically-pleasing landscaping. All waste storage and processing of untreated wastes will occur entirely within the facility. The activities to be regulated if the permit is approved include the sterilization and shredding of regulated medical waste and other types of non-hazardous industrial waste as defined by 27A O.S. § 2-10-103 to include outdated, off-specification, or mislabeled over-the-counter medicines which are not hazardous in accordance with 40 CFR § 261, Subparts C or D, other non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste, medical records or other NHIW that requires the destruction of any personally identifiable information by shredding, as well as, medical marijuana waste as defined by 63 O.S. § 428.1, including roots, stems, stalks and fan leaves, and seeds. With the exception of the regulated medical waste, the foregoing types of waste require a variance to OAC 252-515-23-31(b) which states that only regulated medical waste shall be accepted at a regulated medical waste processing facility. The variance is requested because the treatment process used by Oklahoma Medical Waste Disposal is also suitable for treating types of waste for which the variance is requested because of the complete and total shredding of personally identifiable information and for medical marijuana waste because the shredding, mixing, and steam sterilization process acts as a low-temperature incinerator alternative that renders the medical marijuana waste unrecognizable and unsuitable for use. Should the facility be closed at some time in the future, OK Medical Waste Disposal will follow the Closure Plan as submitted in the application.

The application, the draft permit, and related documents may be reviewed on the DEQ website at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/land-protection-division/permit-public-participation-process/>. The DEQ contact is Hillary Young, P.E., Chief Engineer, DEQ, Land Protection Division, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677; Hillary.Young@deq.ok.gov; (405) 702- 5100; Fax No. (405) 702-5101. Copies are also on file locally at Harrah City Hall, 19625 NE 23rd St, Harrah, OK 73045, during normal working hours; or to request a copy of the application and draft permit, please contact the applicant at the contact information provided below.

Persons wishing to comment on the draft permit should submit their comments in writing to the DEQ at the above address or electronically to the DEQ at the website address above. Also, any person may request, in writing, a formal public meeting to present written or oral statements and data concerning the draft permit. A request for a public meeting must identify the nature of the issues to be raised in the meeting. If the DEQ determines, based on the requests it receives, that there is a significant degree of public interest in the draft permit, it will schedule a public meeting and provide notice of the date, time, and place.

Written comments and requests for a public meeting must be received by the DEQ within 30 days after the date of this publication at the DEQ address given above. More specific information may be obtained by contacting the applicant, Joseph Wignarajah, at P.O. Box 1833, Tulsa, OK 74101, or by phone at (405) 309-7693.