



SCOTT A. THOMPSON  
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KEVIN STITT  
Governor

July 15, 2020

Dear Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Official:

As you are aware, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt issued an emergency declaration for all 77 counties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DEQ wants to assure all of our MS4 partners that we are committed to working with you during these unprecedented times while prioritizing the health and safety of each of you, your families, and all Oklahoma residents. DEQ has been closed to the public since mid-March. Like each of you, DEQ has had to make many changes to keep our employees and families safe, while still meeting our responsibilities under the Clean Water Act.

The DEQ Stormwater Enforcement Section has resumed conducting MS4 evaluations. With the exception of construction and municipal site inspections, the evaluations are now being done virtually to protect both DEQ and MS4 staff. For those MS4s that are currently going through the evaluation process, we greatly appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, all permit conditions remain in effect, including the Annual Report submittal date of either September 1 or March 1. If you anticipate difficulty in completing permit requirements or submitting Annual Reports during this emergency situation, please contact your DEQ Stormwater Representative at the phone numbers and emails below. Please reach out with any questions or concerns about your program or any upcoming evaluation or reporting requirements.

John Brown: 405-702-8116  
Jordan Hultgren: 405-702-8214

[John.Brown@deq.ok.gov](mailto:John.Brown@deq.ok.gov)  
[Jordan.Hultgren@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Jordan.Hultgren@deq.ok.gov)

DEQ is aware that this COVID-19 pandemic is imposing numerous challenges to your MS4s and your stormwater programs, and is prepared to assist you. Many of you have already contacted us with concerns regarding potential upcoming budget cuts, challenges of meeting measurable goals during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other issues. Please reach out to us for technical assistance and guidance on documenting and reporting your specific challenges.

If you have questions or concerns about your program or any upcoming evaluation or reporting requirements, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Stay well, stay safe, and thank you for partnering with DEQ to protect the environment and public health during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shellie R. Chard'.

Shellie R. Chard, Director  
Water Quality Division

