

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 606. OKLAHOMA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(OPDES) STANDARDS**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Notice of proposed PERMANENT rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

Subchapter 1. Introduction
252:606-1-4 [AMENDED]

SUMMARY:

The gist of this proposed rule and the underlying reason for the rulemaking is to ensure the Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (OPDES) is in compliance with the Department's delegation agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and to ensure Oklahoma retains responsibility for administering the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program in Oklahoma. The Department proposes to update its rules concerning the date of the incorporation by reference for the Code of Federal Regulations from July 1, 2020, to July 19, 2021. The federal regulation updates being incorporated include the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPAs) Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule that became effective July 19, 2021. The rule finalized changes to test procedures required to be used by industries and municipalities when analyzing the chemical, physical, and biological properties of wastewater and other environmental samples for reporting under EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. It is anticipated that these changes will provide increased flexibility for the regulated community in meeting monitoring requirements while improving data quality. In addition, this update to the Clean Water Act methods also incorporates technological advances in analytical technology.

AUTHORITY:

Environmental Quality Board; 27A O.S., § 2-2-101

Water Quality Management Advisory Council; 27A O.S., § 2-2-201; and 27A O.S. §§ 2-6-103, and 2-6-203

COMMENT PERIOD:

Written comments may be submitted to the contact person from December 1, 2021, through January 11, 2022. Oral comments may be made at the Water Quality Management Advisory Council meeting on January 11, 2022, and at the Environmental Quality Board meeting on February 18, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Before the Water Quality Management Advisory Council on January 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Environmental Quality offices, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. If the Council recommends adoption, the proposed rules will be considered by the Environmental Quality Board at its meeting scheduled on Friday, February 18, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the DEQ Headquarters, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:

The DEQ requests that business entities or any other members of the public affected by these rules provide to DEQ (during the comment period) the increase (in dollar amounts if possible) in the level of direct costs (e.g., fees) and indirect costs (e.g., reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss), or other costs expected to be incurred due to compliance with the proposed rules.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:

Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained from the contact person, reviewed at the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during normal business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday) or reviewed online at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meetings/water-quality-management-advisory-council/>.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Copies of the rule impact statement may be obtained from the contact person or may be reviewed online at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meetings/water-quality-management-advisory-council/>.

CONTACT PERSON:

Brian Clagg, Water Quality Division, 707 N. Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677, email brian.clagg@deq.ok.gov, phone (405) 702-8100, or fax (405) 702-8101.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Persons with disabilities who desire to attend the rulemaking hearing and need an accommodation should notify the contact person three (3) days in advance of the hearing. For hearing impaired, the TDD relay number is 1-800-522-8506 or 1-800-722-0353, for TDD machine use only.