

Meat Processor Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I need a permit?** – If you plan to dispose of the wastewater generated from the meat processing operation in an impoundment/lagoon or in a subsurface tank, then you will need a permit. If you are able to tie in to a city sewer system and send the wastewater to the city's wastewater treatment plant, then you will not need a permit unless you also plan to have a surface impoundment or underground tank.
2. **Why do I need a permit?** – The wastewater generated from meat processing is considered industrial wastewater. DEQ regulates the disposal of industrial wastewater in impoundments and subsurface tanks.
3. **What can I do with the wastewater?** – The two primary options are to store the water in a tank and have it hauled off periodically for disposal, or to construct an impoundment/lagoon for disposal. For very small volumes of generated water, a tank may be appropriate; for larger volumes, an impoundment is likely to be the most feasible option. Lateral lines are not an acceptable disposal method for industrial wastewater.
4. **How do I choose what to do with the wastewater?** – Your choice should depend on the volume of wastewater generated. For volumes in excess of 50-100 gallons per day, you should plan to use an impoundment. For lower volumes, storing the wastewater in tanks that you periodically have hauled off may be feasible. Designing and constructing an impoundment will have greater up-front cost, but lower operating costs, than will only having a tank and paying to have wastewater regularly disposed of. If you do use an impoundment, you will need to install a tank prior to the impoundment to serve to settle out solids.
5. **How do I design an impoundment?** – Depending on your specific circumstances, you can either use a generic design plan in DEQ's rules or contact a Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensed in Oklahoma to design a lagoon. To use the generic design plan, you need to have at least 15 feet of separation between the bottom of the proposed impoundment and groundwater, you need to have a soil permeability of no more than 5.4×10^{-7} cm/s (soil permeability cannot be determined with a perc test), and you need to have a wastewater flow of no more than 1,000 gallons per day. If you can satisfy these requirements, then you can use the generic design in Appendix D of [OAC 252:616](#). Otherwise, you will need to have a licensed P.E. do the design.
6. **How do I find a licensed P.E. to design an impoundment?** – The simplest way is to do an internet search for licensed Professional Engineers that do impoundment design. DEQ cannot provide a list of potential firms or individuals in the interest of remaining neutral.
7. **How much will a permit cost?** – The annual fee will be approximately \$360 (please note that this fee may rise from year to year in line with the consumer price index). There is also an application fee of \$102.40 that is due with a permit application.
8. **How do I apply?** – Fill out and submit [Form 616-GC3I](#) to DEQ at the following address:

Industrial Permits Section
Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
9. **Who do I contact with questions?** – See [here](#) for a map of current permitting districts and permit writers, as well as phone numbers. Contact the permit writer for the county you plan to operate in if you have additional questions.