MINUTES WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL October 4, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Multipurpose Room Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Official WQMAC Approved at January 10, 2017 Meeting

Notice of Public Meeting – The Water Quality Management Advisory Council (WQMAC) convened for a Regular Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), 707 North Rebinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, with notice of the meeting given to the Secretary of State on October 20, 2015. The agenda was posted at DEQ twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. Mr. Duane Winegardner, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Quiana Fields called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

\mathbf{M}	EME	BERS	PR	ES	EN	Г

Robert Carr Brian Duzan Mike Paque Jim Rodriguez Jeff Short Debbie Wells Duanc Winegardner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Matheson Jon Nelson Steve Sowers Terry Wyatt

DEQ STAFF PRESENT

Shellie Chard
Chris Armstrong
Gary Collins
Mark Hildebrand
Michelle Wynn
Terry Lyhane
Travis Couch
Jennifer Boyle
Trevor Hammons
Courtney Carter
Lloyd Kirk
Saba Tahmassebi
George Russell
Quiana Fields

OTHERS PRESENT

Lynette Wrany, Court Reporter

Approval of Minutes from the May 5, 2015 Meeting – Mr. Winegardner called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2016 Regular Meeting. Ms. Wells moved to approve and Mr. Duzan made the second. Approval by members was with "aye". No one opposed.

See transcript pages 4 - 5

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017 – Mr. Winegardner called for a motion to approve the 2017 schedule as outlined in the agenda; January 10, April 25, July 25 and September 26. Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve and Mr. Paque made the second.

		Northead -	
	See tran	script pages 5 – 7	
Robert Carr	Yes	Debbie Wells	Yes
Brian Duzan	Yes	Duane Winegardner	Yes
Mike Paque	Yes		
Jim Rodriguez	Yes		
Jeff Short	Yes		

PERMANENT RULEMAKING – OAC 252:606 – OKLAHOMA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (OPDES) STANDARDS – Mr. Mark Hildebrand, Environmental Programs Manager of the WQD, stated that the department is proposing to update the date of incorporation by reference for federal regulations from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. The most significant federal rules to be incorporated are the Electronic Reporting Rule; effluent limitation guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating point source energy; and discharges from the oil and gas extraction point source category to publicly owned treatment works. Following a comment by the Council and none by the public, Mr. Winegardner called for a motion. Mr. Short moved to approve and Mr. Duzan made the second.

See transcript pages 7 – 11				
Robert Carr	Yes	Debbie Wells	Yes	
Brian Duzan	Yes	Duane Winegardner	Yes	
Mike Paque	Yes			
Jim Rodriguez	Yes			
Jeff Short	Yes			

PERMANENT RULEMAKING – OAC 252:690 – WATER QUALITY STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATON – Mr. Hildebrand stated that the department is proposing to update the date of incorporation by reference for federal regulations from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. The most significant federal rules to be incorporated are the Electronic Reporting Rule; effluent limitation guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating point source category; and discharges from the oil and gas extraction point source category to publicly owned treatment works. Following comments by the Council and none by the public; Mr. Winegardner called for a motion. Mr. Paque moved to approve and Mr. Rodriguez made the second.

	See trans	script pages 11 – 14	
Robert Carr	Yes	Debbie Wells	Yes
Brian Duzan	Yes	Duane Winegardner	Yes
Mike Paque	Yes		
Jim Rodriguez	Yes		
Jeff Short	Yes		

DISCUSSION OF RULEMAKING FOR JANUARY 2017 WQMAC MEETING:

OAC 252:624 – MINOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS – Mr. George Russell. Environmental Programs Manager of the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division at DEQ, stated that the DEQ staff will be proposing to: (1) clarify the definition of a "Minor Public Water Supply System"; (2) add the definitions for "Annular Space", "Human Consumption", "Individual Water System", "Multi-Family Dwelling", "PAS", and "WSC"; (3) add language to the minor public water supply rules that incorporates the existing Permit to Supply law as outlined in §27A-2-6-304; (4) create a "Certification of Exemption" for facilities that use the water solely for hand washing or toilet flushing; (5) grant authority for DEQ to approve requested variances; (6) add language creating separation distances from confined animal feeding operations and wastewater lagoons to be consistent with Water Resources Board regulations; (7) clarify language regarding separation distances from on-site sewage systems: (8) remove the requirement of a surface casing; (9) add language allowing bentonite clay as an acceptable grouting material; (10) add language to allow for the use of pitless well adapters; (11) amend the appendix to show the changes to the rule and update drawings; and (12) make other minor clarifications and corrections. There were comments by the Council and public.

See transcript pages 14 - 23

DEQ's Plans for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in Oklahoma – Mr. Saba Tahmassebi, Engineering Manager of the DEQ, gave a presentation on DEQ's Plan for ASR in Oklahoma.

See transcript pages 23 – 33

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ms. Chard provided an update on other division activities.

See transcript pages 33 – 43

NEW BUSINESS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next scheduled meeting will be on January 10, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, 1st floor, DEQ building.

ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Winegardner adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. See transcript page 44

Transcripts and Attendance Sheet are attached as an official part of these Minutes.

	WOMAC Meet 1	.119	3 10/4/2016	
		1		3
1	OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY		1 CALL TO ORDER - 2:00 P.M	
2	THE WORLD FIXTHERY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOALITY		2.001	
3		1	The state of the s	
5			3 quorum now, so I think we should call this meeting to	
6 7			4 order, I'm not going to rap the thing. I don't need	
7		1	5 to rap it at the beginning. I will rap it at the end	
8 9		1 '	6 because it's more enthusiastic that way.	
10		1	Yeah. Okay. May we have the roll call?	
11	WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	1	MS, QUIANA FIELDS: The protocol.	
1.0	REGULAR MEETING	1	CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Oh, I need to	
12	OCTOBER 4, 2016 - 2 00 P.M.	10	read the protocol first, Okay, Thank you,	
13		11	This Regular Meeting of the Water Quality	
15		1:	2 Management Advisory Council was called in accordance	
16 17		13	with the Open Meeting Act.	
18	Multi-Purpose Room, 1st Floor	14	5-135 AND	
	DEQ Building	15	filed with the Secretary of State on October 20th	
19	707 N. Robinson		2015. The Agenda was duly posted at DEQ at least	
	Oklahoma City, OK		wenty-four hours prior to the meeting.	
20		18	· ·	
21		1	may be considered at this Regular Meeting. In the	
23				
24	Reported by Lynette H. Wrany, C.S.R, #1167		event that this meeting is continued or reconvened	- 1
25			public notice of the date, time, and place of the	ľ
1			continued meeting will be given by announcement at	- 1
			this meeting. Only matters appearing on the agenda of	İ
1			a meeting which is continued may be discussed at the	- 1
Ī		25	continued or reconvened meeting.	- 1
		-		\dashv
	2			4
1 2	COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT Mr. Robert Carr	1	MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Carr?	- 1
-	Mr. Brian Duzan	2	MR, ROBERT CARR: Here.	
3	Mr. Mike Paque	3	MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Duzan?	
4	Mr. Jim Rodriguez Mr. Jeffrey Short - Vice Chairman	4	MR. BRIAN DUZAN Here.	- 1
	Ms. Debbie Wells	5	MS, QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Matheson is absent.	- 1
5	Mr. Duane Winegardner - Chairman	6	Mr. Nelson is absent. Mr. Paque?	
6 7	COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	7	MR. MIKE PAQUE: Here.	
8	Mr. Mark Matheson	8	MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Rodriguez?	
	Mr. Jon Nelson	9	MR. JIM RODRIGUEZ: Here.	- 1
9	Mr. Steve Sowers Ms. Terry Wyatt	10	MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Short?	- 1
10	vary vejans	11	MR. JEFFREY SHORT: Here.	
11	OTHERS APPEARING	12	MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Sowers is absent.	
12	Mr. Mark Hildebrand, Environmental Program Manager, Water Quality Division		Ms. Wells?	
13	Mr. George Russell, Minor Water Program	14	MS, DEBBIE WELLS: Here.	
l	Manager, Environmental Complaints and	15	MS_QUIANA FIELDS_Ms. Wyatt is absent.	
14	Local Services Division Mr. Saba Tahmassebi, Agency Chief Engineer			
15	Ms. Shellie Chard, Director, Water Quality	17	Mr. Winegardner?	
1.0	Division		CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER Here	- 1
16	Ms. Quiana Fields, Board and Council Secretary	18	MS, QUIANA FIELDS. We have a quorum.	
17	aca clary	19	CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Thank you very	
18			much.	
19 20		21	I assume that we've all reviewed the meeting	
21			minutes from the October 9th meeting. Are there any	
22			corrections, changes? If there are not, I will	- [
23		24	entertain a motion to accept them.	
24 25		25	MS. DEBBIE WELLS. I would so move.	
1 43				

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Ole" College try.

And the second incorporation is an update of

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MS, QUIANA FIELDS: Ms, Wells?

MS. DEBBIE WELLS: Yes.

MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI Right now, Mike, our

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MS. QUIANA FIELDS Mr. Paque?

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1 UIC program doesn't have the capability to accept
2 electronic submittals. We don't have that right now.
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MR. MIKE PAQUE: But we're not talking about

4 a lot of wells anyway, are we?

5 MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI: We are not. But then

6 at the same time we did think about it at some point

7 for Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and UIC. But just

8 because of the fact that you've got so much material

9 to send and there is so much back and forth, we

10 decided to wait until we become smarter electronically

11 before we try to do that.

12 MR. MIKE PAQUE: Okay, Thanks.

CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER. Any other

14 comments or questions?

15 Any comments or any discussion by the public?

16 Okay. Then I believe we're open for a

17 motion.

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MR. MIKE PAQUE: I move approval. 18

19 MR. JIM RODRIGUEZ: Second.

MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Carr?

21 MR. ROBERT CARR: Yes.

22 MS. QUIANA FIELDS. Mr. Duzan?

23 MR. BRIAN DUZAN: Yes.

24 MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Paque?

MR. MIKE PAQUE Yes.

1 Public Water System rules, Chapter 624. I wanted to

2 start by saying that no formal action is required

3 today by the Council and this is mainly just for

4 informational purposes. I'll present it again at the

5 January meeting for an official vote.

Our main reason for deciding to make some of

7 the changes to the rules was that the current

8 definition of the Minor Public Water Supply System was

ambiguous and allowed some room for misinterpretation.

10 So our goal was to clarify that definition and make it

11 easier for the regulated community to understand and

12 then for ourselves also and our ES's, our

13 Environmental Specialists.

So redefining the definition of a Minor Water

15 System was our main goal, but we also wanted to

16 address some of the other concerns from well drillers

and other members of the regulated community while we

had the opportunity. I'll briefly go over some of the

19 more substantial changes that we're going to propose.

20 First, we added the definitions of Annular

21 Space, CAFO, Human Consumption, Individual Water

22 System, Multi-Family Dwelling, PAS and WSC.

23 We also changed -- added language that

24 incorporates the existing Permit to Supply language

25 currently in our statutes. And this updates the rules

1 MS. QUIANA FIELDS Mr. Rodriguez?

2 MR. JIM RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

3 MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Short?

MR. JEFFREY SHORT: Yes.

5 MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Ms. Wells?

6 MS. DEBBIE WELLS: Yes.

7 MS. QUIANA FIELDS: Mr. Winegardner?

В CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Yes.

9 MS. QUIANA FIELDS. Motion passed.

10 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Thank you very

11 much.

12 MR. MARK HILDEBRAND: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Our next

14 discussion is on 252:624, Minor Public Water Supply

15 Systems.

16 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Good afternoon.

17 MR. MARK HILDEBRAND: I should have left it

18 on

19 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL! Got it.

20 My name is George Russell. I'm the Minor

21 Water Program Manager for the Environmental Complaints

22 and Local Services Division here at DEQ.

23 Excuse me. I'm having some allergy issues

24 today, so bear with me if I have to cough or sneeze.

25 So I'm going to be discussing our Minor 14

1 to reflect the statute that allows DEQ to permit

2 facilities that have previously not been permittable

3 or permitted.

We also created a Certificate of Exemption

form that allows facilities, such as small field

offices that use the water solely for handwashing or

toilet flushing, to opt out of being classified as a

8 Minor Public Water Supply System. And our

Environmental Specialists would do a site visit and

verify that this certification is accurate. And the

facility would also be required post signs saying that

12 the water is not safe to drink,

We proposed rules that would grant DEQ the

14 authority to approve variances and we added a

15 subsection to the rules that outlines the process.

We also created or added some language to

17 create separation distances from the wells to

concentrated animal feeding operations and waste water

lagoons to be more consistent with Water Resources

20 Board well driller regulations. And we also clarified

21 the distances from the well to on-site sewage systems.

22 We also propose allowing bentonite clay as an

23 acceptable grouting material and the use of pitless 24 adapters in addition to pitless well units that are

25 allowed in the current rules.

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We would like to remove the requirement of
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- 2 the surface well casing and then amend our appendix to
- 3 reflect all the changes that we're proposing.
- 4 In addition, we shuffled some of the wording
- 5 around in regulations and, hopefully, made the text a
- 6 little more understandable, and made some other minor
- 7 clarifications and corrections.
- 8 We've been working on these rules with the
- 9 assistance of our Water Quality Division and to make
- 10 sure that our rules don't conflict with theirs. And I
- 11 met with the Water Resources Board and Well Drillers
- 12 Advisory Committee a couple of weeks ago and discussed
- 13 some of the proposed changes. They have been asking
- 14 for some changes for awhile and were pleased with many
- 15 of the changes that we made or are proposing. I guess.
- 16 I also have a couple more meetings scheduled:
- 17 one here in Oklahoma City and then one in Tulsa later
- ._____
- 18 this month, in which I'll send a letter to our
- 19 regulated community, as well as well drillers, and
- 20 give them an opportunity to make comments at that
- 21 time. And then our formal comment period, of course,
- 22 will be during the month of December. I think that
- 23 covers most of the changes.
- 24 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Thank you.
- 25 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Thank you.

- 1 MR. JEFFREY SHORT: Where do -- I have a
 - 2 question on the definition of the Minor Public Water
 - 3 Supply System. Where does the ambiguity arise in the
 - 4 definition?
 - 5 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Our current definition
 - 6 pretty much states what a -- a minor -- it states a
 - 7 Minor Water System is not a PWS and that -- it kind of
 - 8 leaves it at that. It doesn't really define what it
 - 9 is, which is what we try to do to leave it -- to make
 - 10 it more explain a little better what actually a
 - 11 Minor Water System is, saying what it is not. Does
 - 12 that answer your question?
 - 13 So the current definition says it's not a
 - 14 community system, it's not a non-community, and it's
 - 15 not a non-transient non-community system. And we took
 - 16 that language out and added language that says it's
 - 17 fewer than 15 connections, fewer than 25 people, along
 - 18 with some other wording.
 - 19 MR. JEFFREY SHORT: The reason I asked, I
 - 20 remember a long time ago there was a big concern by
 - 21 people who ran RV parks as a transient water supply
 - 22 system, that they were going to have to fall under
 - 23 these regulations. And I think there was some
 - 24 compromises made at that time and I thought we had
 - 25 addressed that in the definition back when

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- CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER Discussion by
- 2 the Council?
- 3 MR. MIKE PAQUE. A question. On the
- 4 separation distances?
- 5 MR, GEORGE RUSSELL: Uh-huh.
- 6 MR, MIKE PAQUE: They are they just it
- 7 says, "add language creating separation distance."
- 8 There are linear distances, but are they also based on
- 9 geologic or subsurface conditions?
- 10 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: There are some, as far
- 11 as in regards to on-site septic systems. We added
- 12 language regarding the type of -- so like a coarse
- 13 sand or a loamy coarse sand would require a greater
- 14 separation distance than a clay material.
- 15 MR, MIKE PAQUE: Okay, And then the
- 16 elimination of surface casing, the removing of the
- 17 requirement for that. What is the --
- 18 MR, GEORGE RUSSELL: Right. So we
- 19 discussed there's been a lot of discussion with the
- 20 well drillers and then also the Water Quality Division
- 21 and the engineers about possibly that surface casing
- 22 being being a conduit for some contamination when
- 23 it shrinks and swells between it. And what was
- 24 decided is that that adds no extra protection, the
- 25 surface casing.

- 1 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Was it for the Minor
 - 2 definitions?
 - 3 MR. JEFFREY SHORT: I believe it was.
 - MR. GEORGE RUSSELL. Okay. I'm not familiar
 - 5 with that conversation. I don't know if anybody
 - 6 else --
 - 7 MR. JEFFREY SHORT: Pre-dates everybody.
 - 8 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: I will ask around in our
 - 9 division, the people who worked on the rules
- 10 previously, to see what that discussion was
- 11 MR. MARK HILDEBRAND Jeff, we can try to
- 12 look at the old language changes and try to look at
- 13 the old rulemaking stuff that we have in our archives
- 14 and see what that might have been.
- 15 MR. JEFFREY SHORT: I think it had to do with
- 16 Governor Keating's rewrite, de-wrong the rules way
- 17 back when because this one came up. And I think
- 18 there was a I remember there was quite a few people
- 19 that attended the Council meeting, because they were
- 20 really concerned about a transient water supply system
- 21 that's applied to only a few RVs in a private park.
- 22 MR. MARK HILDEBRAND. I remember that
- 23 happening even though I was in Waste Water, because
- 24 they sent me to look at a few while I was out in
- 25 nearby areas. I drove by one the other day.

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- 1 MR. JIM RODRIGUEZ. From Item 10, could you.
- 2 please, tell me what a pitless well adapter is?
- 3 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: A pitless well adapter
- 4 is a -- so a lot of the wells that you look at have
- 5 above-ground distribution piping. With the pitiess
- 6 well units and pitless well adapters, all that's on
- 7 the surface is a casing. And then below the surface
- 8 it actually ties in into the production casing. And
- 9 where it ties in there is the pitless well adapter.
- 10 MR. JIM RODRIGUEZ. So that's tying in under
- 11 ground?
- 12 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Yes.
- 13 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER. This is a very
- 14 timely discussion. I have had -- in the last week
- 15 I've had a couple of well drillers call me and ask me.
- 16 So either your word is getting around or these
- 17 concerns are much broader than what I anticipated.
- 18 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Yeah. I have met with
- 19 the Well Drillers Advisory Committee. They seemed to
- 20 be pleased. I hope they passed that information on to
- 21 you, unless it was a different well driller. I'm not
- 22 sure.
- 23 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER. I think it was
- 24 It was.
- 25 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: It was? Okay.

- 1 more cooperation and discussion we have, the better
 - 2 off we become in the end. Okay.
 - 3 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Thank you,
 - 4 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: There is nothing
 - 5 to vote on at this time. We will have in January
 - 6 though.
 - 7 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Thank you.
 - CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Yeah, Thank
 - 9 vou.

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- 10 Okay. Saba, would you like to come and talk
- 11 about Aquifer Storage and Recovery?
- 12 MR, SABA TAHMASSEBI, Yes, sir. Thank you
- 13 for having me here today.
- 14 As most of you know, DEQ has been very
- 15 proactive in trying to address the drought situation
- 16 for the time when we will have drought again. I have
- 17 talked before you in the past about what we've done
- 18 with dual permitting of Class I and Class V wells for
- 19 disposal of waste water treatment residuals, drinking
- 20 water treatment residuals and also our Class V rules
- 21 that make it easier for folks to produce groundwater
- 22 that is brackish and get rid of their get rid of
- 23 their residuals.

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- 24 And you might even know, if you follow the
- 25 environmental news, that the City of Clinton took

CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: But that doesn't

- 2 mean that they didn't have secondhand questions that
- 3 they were passing on.
- 4 MR. GEORGE RUSSELL: Yeah, Right.
- 5 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Very good.
- 6 Other discussion by the Council?
- 7 Are there concerns by the public or any
- 8 discussion?
- 9 MR. JEFF EVERETT: I need to address the mic?
- 10 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER. Please.
- 11 MR. JEFF EVERETT: Okay. Jeff Everett, OGE
- 12 Energy Corp.
- 13 I just want to address the Council and say,
- 14 you know, we've been working with George and his staff
- 15 on this. This is something that has come up in our
- 16 industry that we've kind of got caught on that we
- 17 found. And so, we've been working back and forth,
- 18 And I think this rule or this change will actually
- 19 align some of the rules within the different state
- 20 agencies, so as far as construction standards go. So
- 21 and, you know, I appreciate our staff working with
- 22 them as well.
- 23 So that's all I have to say. Looking forward
- 24 to more cooperation in the future on this.
- 25 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER Thank you. The

- 1 advantage of the rules that you all passed last time
 - 2 and they have made national environmental news for
 - 3 being a community that is being proactive in
 - 4 diversifying the sources of their water. And now they
 - 5 have an application on file at DEQ, both in Water and
 - 6 in UIC, to actually use brackish groundwater to
 - 7 address the drought situation, if it comes again.
 - 8 Some of you also may know that DEQ with OWRB.
 - 9 we developed this screening tool for regionalization.
 - 10 This is -- it's a great tool. We have -- it's a
- 11 GIS-based utility map of Oklahoma shows up. You see
- 12 which wells, for example, have high nitrates, which
- 13 wells have high arsenic. This way folks who are in
- 14 water planning, they know which, if they need to
- 15 combine water resources, if there are any blending,
 16 any blending opportunities, if there are any
- 17 opportunities to have regionalized treatment systems
- 18 or have regionalization in general. This tool
- 19 is has been developed and there are people who are
- 20 actual using it in their water planning.
- 21 And you also know that we have been proactive
- 22 in promoting reuse and we have a work group with
- 23 external folks who have membership in it and we are
- 24 trying to develop criteria and also rules for indirect
- 25 potable reuse and that is going well also.

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So this brings us to ASR, Aquifer Storage and Recovery. And this is with the realization that under certain circumstances it may make sense for us to
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4 store our drinking water or our water in the

5 subsurface, as opposed to in surface reservoirs, which

6 I call this, affectionately, evaporation basins. I

7 mean, in some of our reservoirs we lose like six

8 inches a month worth of water just due to evaporation.

9 So there are circumstances where it makes

sense, if you have like a flood situation, if you have
 got a high water flow situation, to somehow divert

12 that water to treat it and to inject it so that you

13 replenish the aquifer. And that way, when the drought

14 comes, then this is something that could be done to

15 address that situation.

So a year and a half ago we formed a work group with the Water Board, with the Department of Agriculture, with the Corporation Commission, with the

19 Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment,

20 with Mike's GWPC, and a member from the Oklahoma

21 Legislature, also the Oklahoma Geological Survey, the

22 USGS, and a City Manager in Southwest Oklahoma, and

23 two nationally prominent consultants who are - who

24 were in Kansas - I mean, I'm sorry, in Missouri and

25 in Colorado, who just joined the group just because we

1 in Oklahoma and protecting our groundwater resources,

in Oxianoma and protecting our groundwater resources,

2 at the same time we created a way for ASR to happen in3 Oklahoma. And the Water Board right now, they are in

4 the process of having this rule go through their

5 Board. And, in fact, they have their first

6 stakeholder meeting this Friday, Friday the 7th. And

7 we're hopeful that that will go forward.

What now, what is next is rulemaking on the

9 part of DEQ, both in the Water Quality Division and

10 the UIC Division, for us to come up with standards and

11 a mechanism to do ASR. That effort is in its infancy

12 right now. We've had a couple of meetings and people

13 are ideating, coming up with ideas on how we need to14 do this, what are some of the issues that we need to

15 address. And after that, we will – we will get our

16 pens and start writing rules.

17 And we have decided that we're going to do

18 the rulemaking development through the work group. So

19 we are going to get input from this list of eleven

20 different organizations that I talked about.

21 Everything will be, you know, it will be a work group

22 product. And we are very excited about it.

23 For those of you who may not know, we are not

24 inventing the wheel here. There are other states who

25 have done this. An expert in the field is Mike Paque

1 asked them to and they are working for free.

We formed this huge work group of experts in

3 trying to find a way to make ASR a reality in

4 Oklahoma. And the work group has worked extremely

5 well. People have brought in very good ideas. And it

6 has also been very fruitful.

7 What we have accomplished in the past year

8 and a half has been that there was a Senate Bill,

9 Senate Bill 1219, which was passed during the last

10 legislative session. This was sponsored by the Water

11 Board. That addressed water rights with ASR.

12 The issue was that if you inject water here

13 and your neighbor recovers it, you know, just down the

14 street, whose water is it. How is that accounted for

15 in the water rights equation. So that was - that

16 will pave the way for the Water Board to address water

17 rights or ASR situations.

18 The next issue that the work group addressed

19 was the issue of standards in Oklahoma with respect to

20 groundwater. And the way the wording of certain rules

21 were, it made it sort of impossible to have ASR in

22 Oklahoma in any meaningful way.

23 So the work group got together and crafted

24 some language that, while staying true to the

25 philosophy of maintaining the high quality groundwater

1 right here who is a national voice for ASR and has had

2 discussions with EPA. For that reason, we wanted his

3 group to be a member of our work group.

And we made a presentation at GWPC's National

5 Conference a couple of weeks ago. One of our folks

6 did a survey of all of the states, the relevant

7 states, about the requirements and how they do ASR.

8 And it was quite a good study and we made that and

9 made the presentation of that study in GWPC.

10 So timelines, we are thinking that in 12

11 months we should have some rules for your

12 consideration and approval. And between now and then

13 I will keep on giving you updates of where we are in

14 the process and how this is going.

15 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER Thank you.

MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Thank you.

18 Discussion by the - by the Council?

19 MR, MIKE PAQUE. I'd just say one word. I

20 want to commend the DEQ for taking this topic on.

21 Saba correctly points out that other states

22 are working on the same challenge for future drought

23 conditions, some current drought conditions, and some

24 states are noticeably more advanced, if you want to

25 use those words, in their use of aquifer storage and

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1 recovery as a water management tool. And I think it's
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- 2 to the state's credit that we're undertaking this.
- 3 The -- I had a couple of questions. One
- 4 comment, Saba, I know that there has been opportunity
- 5 to attend the work group meetings. I haven't been
- 6 able to, but others have. At what point in the
- 7 process do you think we could do some briefings for
- 8 this Council so that when we get I would suggest
- 9 even before the work group got to the point where they
- 10 had parameters for rules, but just slightly before
- 11 that where we could have a Council meeting or
- 12 informational not a Council meeting, but a
- 13 informational meeting, like we've done a number of
- 14 times over the years, so that any members of the
- 15 Council that want to be brought up to speed on the
- 16 process and some of the challenges in the UIC Program,
- 17 the Drinking Water Program, would have that
- 18 information provided to them.
- 19 So I'd encourage you to have some briefings
- 20 for the Council. There is ways of doing that that
- 21 don't violate the Open Meeting Law. You know what
- 22 those are. But I'm sure Mr. Chairman would want to
- 23 encourage us to do that at some point in the future.
- 24 The other comment I had, and I don't have an
- 25 answer, Saba, you may, and it may be something we have

- 1 office has been coming to all of the meetings.
 - 2 And I think your idea about further
 - 3 coordination with the members of this Council is a
 - 4 wonderful idea. I think we could all benefit from
 - 5 that and we will certainly do that.
 - CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Yes. 1 like
 - 7 working, what do you want to call it, working meetings
 - 8 when we can just listen and have open discussion.
 - 9 MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI: Very good.
 - 10 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER, Very good, I
 - 11 will encourage that.

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- 12 Other discussion?
 - MR. BRIAN DUZAN: You mentioned at the
- 14 beginning that the legislature passed a rule about who
- 15 the water belonged to after you pumped it down. Can
- 16 you elaborate what it means or says?
- 17 MR, SABA TAHMASSEBI: Yes. This is the
- 18 Senate Bill 1219. And it actually is without
- 19 describing exactly who owns the water, the bill states
- 20 that the entity that does the ASR needs to come up
- 21 with an aquifer storage plan. And when they come up
- 22 with the plan, actually a part of the plan is actually
- 23 getting whatever permits the entity needs to get from
- 24 DEQ. There are other requirements, too. And with
- 25 that, the OWRB does its allocations of who owns what,

1 to work out, there will be challenges eventually to

- 2 coordinate with OWRB, correct? Some of the or not?
- 3 MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI: Well, we are --
- 4 MR. MIKE PAQUE: Will there be a set of rules
- 5 that they have to pass or changes that they have to do
- 6 that have to be coordinated with changes that this7 Council has to do and send it on to the Board?
- 8 MR, SABA TAHMASSEBI: Yes. We have been
- 9 working pretty much seamlessly with them. The first
- 10 step was for them to push through the standards and
- 11 then next year an implementation.
- 12 Their representatives are attending our
- 13 internal DEQ meetings and we are attending their
- 14 internal meetings. And we are also part of the bigger
- 15 work group. So the idea is for their rules and our
- 16 rules to mesh together really well. So we're really
- 17 working well together intentionally.
- 18 MR. MIKE PAQUE. And when you mention the big
- 19 group, do you refer to the Governor's Water 2060 group
- 20 or –
- 21 MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI: No, I'm talking about
- 22 the ASR work group with the membership that I
- 23 mentioned at the beginning.
- 24 MR. MIKE PAQUE: Oh, yes.
- 25 MR, SABA TAHMASSEBI: And Dan Yates of your

1 I think that the whole bill is really three

- 2 pages and the last page is just for signature. It
- 3 doesn't say much. But it's one of those documents
- 4 that, with just a few words, opens up the pathway for
- 5 something good to happen.
- 6 MR, JIM RODRIGUEZ: Could you address the
- 7 circumstances that water might be lost in an aquifer?
- 8 MR. SABA TAHMASSEBI That is correct. So
- 9 when we ASR may be good for certain situations, not
- 10 all situations. When you store water in surface
- 11 reservoirs, you have evaporative losses. When you
- 12 store water in underground reservoirs, you have losses
- 13 because water will go elsewhere. So all of that will 14 have to be taken into account when in terms of
- 14 have to be taken into account when in terms of 15 water rights, I'm sure you're talking about. All of
- 16 that will have to be addressed through the water
- 47 Table No at 100 at 100 at 141 4
- 17 rights. It's not -- it's not done yet. We have a
- path forward, but we don't have a path.
 Jim, it's not going to be easy. It's not
- 20 going to be easy. It's going to be hard. But then I
- 21 believe that we are all smart people and we know what
- 22 is the right thing to do. The right thing to do is
- 23 that, if the situation calls for it, we need to be
- 24 able to store water underground. If that makes sense,
- 25 we should not have laws, we should not have

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1 regulations that prohibit us from doing what's the
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- 2 right thing to do. And that's what we have done.
- 3 We've opened up the path so that if the right thing
- 4 presents itself, there is no law or rule that tells us
- 5 we can't do that.
- 6 So we just we just have to be. And we
- 7 have gathered the smartest people that we know in
- 8 trying to find a solution and do this the right way.
- 9 But it's not going to be easy. We need to think hard
- 10 and we need to be smart.
- 11 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Thank you. Any
- 12 other discussion? Well, thank you, Saba.
- 13 MR, SABA TAHMASSEBI Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN DUANE WINEGARDNER: Any discussion
- 15 that the public might have? Okay. Thank you.
- 16 The next thing on the Agenda, Shellie, you
- 17 may address us.
- 18 MS. SHELLIE CHARD: Okay. Good afternoon.
- 19 I'm Shellie Chard. I'm the Water Quality Division
- 20 Director.
- 21 I just had a few key things that I wanted to
- 22 talk about today. I know at our last meeting we kind
- 23 of gave you guys some of the overviews of some the
- 24 programs and some of the big things that were going
- 25 on. You know, obviously, we're spending a lot of time

- 1 modelina
- We, in Oklahoma, have a pretty good track
- 3 record. We don't have very many permits that go
- 4 beyond a two year time period. The proposal would
- 5 allow EPA to consider administratively-continued
- 6 permits that have gone an additional two years, those
- 7 permits EPA would consider a draft permit, which
- 8 doesn't sound like too big of a deal, except that
- 9 triggers a clock. And that would basically give the
- 10 state 120 days to finalize the permit with EPA's
- 11 changes or EPA could federalize the permits.
- 12 EPA headquarters seems very high on this
- 13 idea. At least Region 6 is not very high on that
- 14 idea, because they don't have the staff or the
- 15 expertise to deal with some of the permitting issues
- 16 anymore.. So the regions are trying to convince
- 17 headquarters to take a different stance. Certainly
- 18 all of the states have voiced concern. So that's
- 19 something we're definitely going to be working
- 20 through:
- 21 If EPA meets their timeline, they have
- 22 expressed that they likely will try to publish before
- 23 the end of the calendar year so that this rule would
- 24 be finalized under the current administration. Will
- 25 it happen? You know, you never know how that's going

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- 1 addressing water reuse, ASR, indirect potable reuse.
- 2 All of those things, those activities, will continue
- 3 into the foreseeable future.
- 4 At this time that we're addressing the state
- 5 water needs and water planning, we're also kind of
- 6 catching up and keeping up with some of EPA's programs
- 7 and things that they have some initiatives that we
- 8 will be involved in and see how they affect the
- 9 regulated community in Oklahoma.
- 10 We've talked about the NPDES update rule for
- 11 what feels like an eternity. I think that rulemaking
- 12 started sometime in the mid-to-late '90s, and it was
- 13 put on the shelf, and it came back, and then it left,
- 14 and it's back again.
- 15 The rule was published in May. EPA had more
- 16 than 14,000 comments. The bulk of the comments were
- 17 in one section and that relates to administratively
- 18 continued permits. That's something that we do. If
- 19 the entity has a permit, they file their renewal
- 20 application, their permit continues in effect until we
- 21 renew that permit.
- 22 Sometimes we use that as a tool to
- 23 prioritize. Maybe we have an area where we're
- 24 addressing TMDL issues, sometimes we're waiting for
- 25 TMDLs, we're waiting for additional monitoring or

- 1 to work.
- MR. MIKE PAQUE: Before you leave that
- 3 thought, the 120 days, that's in the proposed rule?
- 4 The 120 days?
- 5 MS. SHELLIE CHARD No. That's part of -
- 6 today when we do draft permits, EPA has the
- 7 opportunity to review. They don't review a lot of
- 8 permits because of staff limitations. But once they
- 9 issue formal comments to the state, that starts our
- 10 clock. And that's actually been in effect in Oklahoma
- 11 since 1995-96 when we got delegation. So it
- 12 just it's using an existing mechanism to speed up
- 13 the process.
- 14 And, you know, we're being honest. There are
- 15 a handful of states that have really old permits. As
- 16 with all things, you don't address the one naughty
- 17 child, you punish the entire classroom. And that's18 kind of what this rule on that provision kind of looks
- 19 like. And that's why there were 14,000 comments
- 20 primarily on the one issue.
- 21 The issue is related to, I think, some other
- 22 ways we handle things. You know, we kind of already
- 23 do it. It's not that big of a change, but it's the
- 24 administratively-continued permits that we felt like
- 25 would have the greatest impact in Oklahoma. So we're

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1 just kind of watching it.

2 And, like I said, the regional offices are

3 not proponents of that aspect. So we're kind of

4 hoping that EPA will have their internal discussions

5 and work through some of that. So that's the one

6 piece of that rule that we're really keeping an eye

7 on.

8 Something that happened last week, on the

9 29th of September EPA published an advanced notice of

10 proposed rulemaking on setting a nationwide baseline

11 Tribal water quality standards. And again, this

12 actually originated with an issue in Maine and kind of

13 started spreading.

14 So EPA headquarters decided that clearly

15 there was an issue that water quality standards had

16 not been adequately set for the Tribes. It basically

17 will set standards for Tribes that do not have

18 treatment as a state status and set their own

19 standards. It works very nicely where you have

20 defined boundaries and EPA talks about reservations.

21 Oklahoma, we don't have reservations. So EPA - well

22 there are informal reservations.

23 And then we got into discussions of, well.

24 there are formal and informal reservations and there

25 are allotment lands and trust lands and a lot of

1 Obviously, as it moves forward, we will be working

2 with the Tribes in Oklahoma. We have a pretty good

3 relationship with several of the Tribes; we work on

4 remediation projects together, we do water planning

5 together, But it's just - it's a little bit odd.

6 And EPA is identifying some new beneficial uses in

7 their proposed rulemaking that we don't currently

8 have. So we don't know how to apply ceremonial uses,

9 we don't know what that means when looking at water

10 quality standards and a discharge.

11 We know what public and private water supply

12 is. We know what agricultural uses are. We have

13 history with that. We know what those mean.

14 So we're trying to figure out exactly what it

15 means and how it will affect dischargers in Oklahoma

16 and trying to figure out how it will all play out

17 since -- I thought we were alone in the world, but,

18 actually, Alaska kind of has a very similar situation

19 to the way that their boundaries and jurisdictional

20 issues are set.

21 So that's going to be something we're

22 definitely going to be watching. And we'll see how

23 that plays out over the next year or so.

24 Originally EPA said, oh, this is easy, it

25 will be done before this administration. It's not.

1 discussion of where would those standards apply, how

2 would we deal with them... And EPA kept going back to

3 some 1860s treaties and that we'll rely on that. And

4 it was like, well, that sent Alaska into a tailspin.

5 We have some Congressional language that is

6 in place that allows us input into Tribal water

7 quality standards that are set in the State of

8 Oklahoma. Our biggest issue right now is not that the

9 Tribes should or shouldn't have water quality

10 standard, it's we don't know where these water quality

11 standards would apply.

12 For DEQ that becomes an issue of we don't

13 know what water quality standards apply on a

14 particular discharge permit on a stream segment in a

15 water body. Is it state, is it the federal baseline,

16 is it something beyond that, so that it gets real

17 messy.

18 We've also found in -- when we start talking

19 about allotment lands, we have to ask Bureau of Indian

20 Affairs to identify those lands for us. It can take a

21 couple of years to do that. That's not very timely,

22 that's not very helpful for an industry or a city

23 that's trying to get a permit.

24 So we're trying to figure out exactly what

25 EPA is intending to do and how it's going to work.

1 There is just no way, even if you meet minimum

2 timelines, will it be finished under the current

3 administration. So we'll see what happens, whoever

4 the next administrator is and what that person's

5 approach is.

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6 So this is one definitely to stay tuned. If

7 you have an interest and want to read the Federal

8 Register notice, you can let me know and I can send

9 you the link. But it's, you know, kind of a standard

10 environmental notice that EPA publishes.

Just a couple of quick things on drinking

12 water. Just as everyone knows, the Flint situation,

13 the lead in drinking water got a lot of attention and

14 continues to do so.

15 The EPA made a small amount of money

16 available to the states. They called them

17 multi-purpose grants. Some of that had to be used for

18 certain air quality functions and the remainder of the

19 money could be used for whatever the state deemed a

20 priority, but lead in drinking water should be

21 everyone's priority. Kind of hint, hint, even though

22 they couldn't tell us exactly what we should do.

23 We worked with the Secretary of Energy and

24 Environment and we did obtain about \$135,000 for the

25 water quality drinking water programs. We are using

WQMAC Meeting 10/4/2016

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Attendance Record
October 4, 2016
Department of Environmental Quality
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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