

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
ANNUAL REPORT



WATER QUALITY DIVISION

WATER QUALITY DIVISION: A FLOOD OF RESPONSIBILITIES

There is a flood of program responsibilities that fall into the Water Quality Division (WQD) of the DEQ. A lesser group of dedicated employees would be overcome with the rise of activities that have crested in recent years. The

WQD is responsible for administering the Public Water Supply program under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; National/Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program under the federal Clean Water Act; Construction Per-

mit Program, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan program, Total Maximum Daily Load program, and Operator Certification program. In order to meet all of the requirements, the WQD has divided the work assignments into seven Sections.

WATER QUALITY STAFF HELPS DEVELOP SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW RULES

At a time of expansions and revisions of federal regulations, Shellie Chard and Carl Parrott, Water Quality Division staff members, worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in order to develop new proposed federal rules for wastewater collection systems. These proposed regulations clarify and expand the specific requirements for proper operation and maintenance of collection systems.

The DEQ staff was asked to assist in developing these new rules since Oklahoma has had an active program to address collection system issues for many years. Based on the participation by the WQD in the rule development process, the national program reflects many of the elements that the DEQ pioneered.

The reason for these new proposed regulations was the impact that overflows were having on the environment nationwide. While fish kills are the most dramatic environmental harm, streets have collapsed due to failing sewer lines. Historically, collection systems have not been addressed until a major event occurred. These new rules will require utilities to take action to ensure the integrity of their systems rather than waiting until a failure occurs to address problems.



Pictured is a overflowing manhole.

To the right: a street collapses as a result of sewer line failure



Here, a fish kill resulted from a sanitary sewer overflow.



TRAINING EXPANDED AND MANUAL UPDATED

In FY 2001, the Operator Certification Section completed several modifications to program materials. The first major task was to validate and update *The Water System Operations Manual*, a water certification study guide used by operators to help prepare for water exams. In addition, Operator Certification approved on-line training for

water and wastewater operators for the first time. On-line training topics include Pretreatment Permit Limitations, Total Suspended Solids, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, pH, and Materials Flow Balance. With the update in the Water System Operation Manual and additional opportunities for training, Operator Certification administered

1,798 examinations and issued 1,161 new or higher level certifications. Also, throughout the year more than 1,100 operators received four hours of training provided by Water Quality through remote telecommunication sites located across the state more than 4,400 hours of approved training hours were provided to operators using distant learning sites located across the state.

GENERAL PERMIT ESTABLISHED

In an attempt to simplify the permitting process for minor municipal discharging lagoons systems, the Wastewater Permitting Section issued a general permit for these facilities effective July 1, 2001. About

120 of the municipal wastewater discharge lagoons, or 1/3 of all municipal wastewater discharge facilities in the state, are eligible for acquiring this general permit. The purpose of issuance of the general

permit is to streamline permitting process for facilities with similar characteristics and discharges. The result is saving time, money and effort both for regulated communities and DEQ staff.

\$19 MILLION IN LOANS MADE

Located in the Construction Permit Section, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program in the Water Quality Division of the DEQ loaned communities in Oklahoma just under \$19 million in FY 2001. Eight public utilities were awarded money for drinking water facility expansion, upgrade, and new construction. Loan amounts ranged from \$250,000 to \$10.6 million.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act created this low interest loan program to assist communities that could demonstrate a need for financial assistance to improve the ability to provide safe and adequate drinking water to residents. Any public entity is eligible to file an application for participation in this program.



Above is a DWSRF funded construction site for a public utility

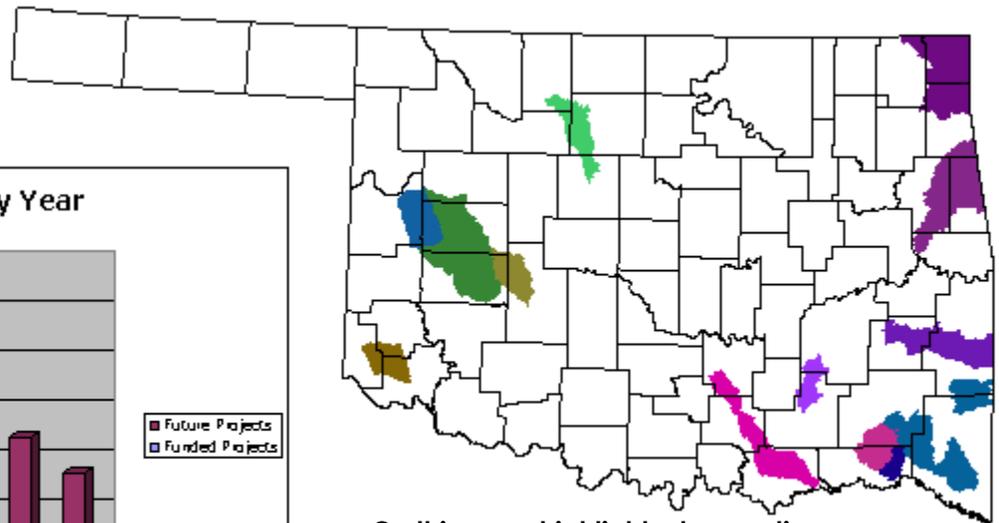
Facility	Million \$
Altus	10.6
Cherokee	0.25
Hominy	0.95
Okeene	0.337
LeFlore Co. RWD	0.828
Mangum	2.5
Bartlesville	2.114
Hennessey	1.4175
TOTAL	18.9945

This table shows how the DWSRF Loans For FY 2001 were distributed.

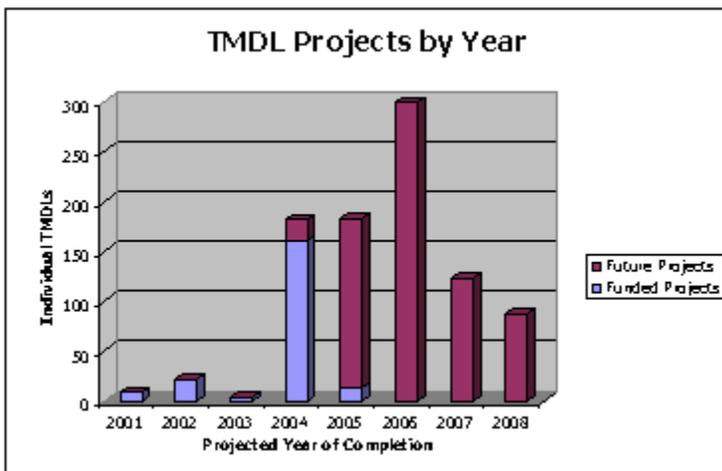


Steve Webb and his assistant conducting a Hydraulic Survey as part of TMDL study

**\$1.1
MILLION
TARGETED
FOR TMDL
PROGRAM**



On this map, highlights show active TMDL Projects in Oklahoma.



Above shows the current & future TMDL projects.

The Oklahoma Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is growing rapidly. As the lead state Agency in the process of identifying the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into a waterbody and still maintain

water quality standards, the DEQ continues to focus on interagency cooperation as the key to tackling the State's problem waterbodies. A complete review of the State's list of impaired waters is almost finished. This has helped target resources responsibly and effectively.

Currently, the State has 12 large-scale projects funded that comprise over 100 waterbodies and address more than 230 individual TMDLs. More than \$1.1 million is earmarked to identify the causes and sources of impairment in these areas.

PWS STAFF

EDUCATE AND ASSIST

REGULATED COMMUNITY



In anticipation of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Product Rule, the WQD

Public Water Supply (PWS) Section sponsored three training conferences. These conferences focused on the requirements for a facility to comply with these new rules. Subjects included timeframes for compliance, sampling require-

ments and potential violations. Over 200 people from 50 facilities attended these training sessions. In addition to these workshops, PWS staff made more than 2200 facility visits. These visits included compliance determination and providing assistance to communities in need.



Above is Robert Mullins inspecting rapid sand filter media.



Pictured here are fluoride and polymer feeders evaluated during an inspection.



MUNICIPAL/ INDUSTRIAL STAFF RAIN DOWN ASSISTANCE

The Municipal/Industrial Compliance Section has been very busy this last year. In addition to all the enforcement actions it has taken and the regular inspections it performed, this Section worked and resolved 142 complaints in 90 days or less in FY 2001. This breaks down into 70 for the municipal staff, 35 for the industrial staff and 37 for the storm water staff.

When citizens call or write to the DEQ with a complaint, contact is made with the complainant within 7 days. Inspectors work with facilities and those making complaints in order to resolve the issues within 90 days. The Section has never exceeded this timeframe.

In addition to the diligent work of complaint resolution, these inspectors make site visits to facilities to aid in their compliance with state and federal regulations. Over the last year over 540 technical assistance visits to facilities were made. Joe Willingham, who is primarily responsible for all storm water technical assistance made 99 facility visits.



Pictured is a storm water complaint resulting from a discharge at a construction site.



DEQ visited the same site and provided technical assistance to prevent inadequate storm water run-off with prevention measures.

WATER QUALITY DATA GO ONLINE

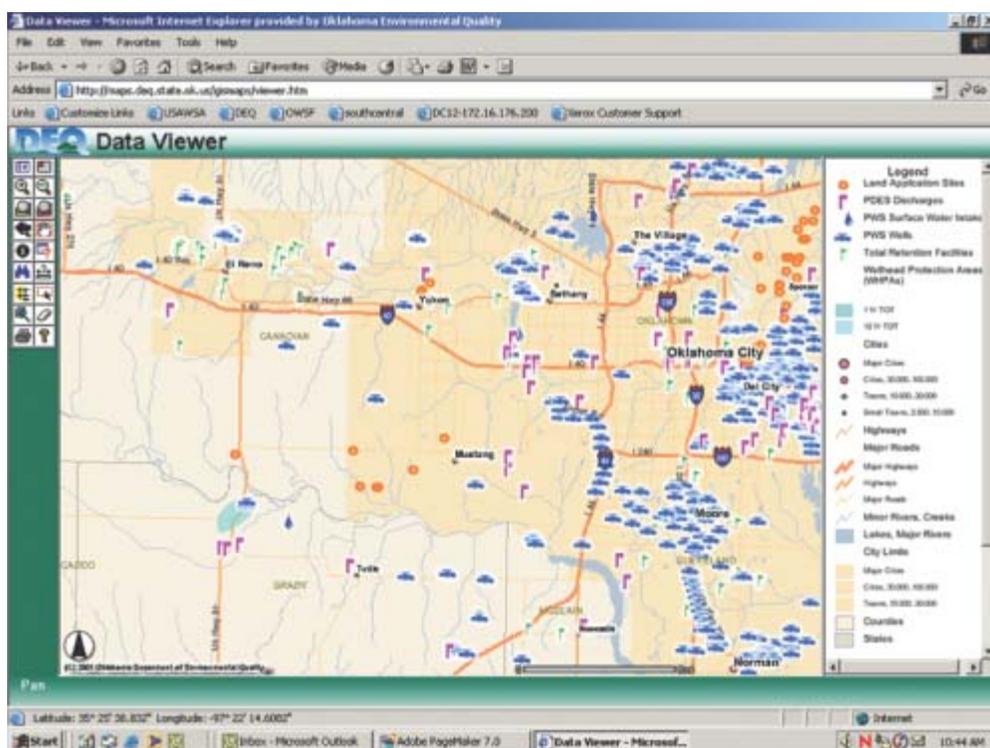


The Water Quality Program Management Section of the DEQ worked with the Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC) to develop a web site based on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and location information from Global Positioning System data DEQ has collected. It used information gathered from other agencies too. This GIS system is a primary tool to view and generate reports for water quality analytical data for the state. This data comes from all state and federal agencies who maintain water quality data for Oklahoma.

Roads, streams, facility locations, water quality data, and many other bits of information may be found on this site. In addition, this system is crafted to provide access to Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), the EPA required report for public drinking water systems, as well as other water quality data for drinking water systems.

Water Quality is also working on another viewer that uses GIS data and information. The DEQ Data Viewer is more of a general data viewing tool for DEQ regulated activities. The viewer provides a quick visual mechanism to query, view and generate reports concerning general

facility information for sites regulated by DEQ. In addition, the viewer provides several functional tools which will assist DEQ personnel in performing assigned tasks in a more efficient manner (i.e. quickly determine legal descriptions and latitude/longitude coordinates) and provides a very useful tool for emergency response situations which may have environmental concerns.



Above is a screen shot of the interface of the data viewers will see on the internet.

WATERWORKS AND WASTEWATER WORKS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The Waterworks and Wastewater Works Advisory Council met three times in FY 2001, in July 2000, September 2000 and March 2001. Members discussed many issues im-

portant to water and wastewater operators. Their primary focus was on possibly adding the requirement for all instructors of water and wastewater classes to be DEQ approved.

Also, work continued on the "Distribution and Collection" certification. Workgroups were formed to study each of these issues, and they will continue to meet through FY 2002.

MEMBER	PROFESSIONAL REALM	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Gary Lippard	Waterworks Operator	Governor	6/30/2002
Carl Gray	Environmental Training Center/Higher Ed	Governor	6/30/2004
George Holmes	OK Municipal League	Governor	6/30/2003
David Poole	OK Water Pollution Control Association	President ProTempore of the Senate	6/30/2004
Rick Stebbens**	OK Water Pollution Control Association	President ProTempore of the Senate	7/1/2003
Jessee Vaughn*	OK Rural Water Association	President ProTempore of the Senate	6/30/2002
Campbell Sasser	Waterworks Operator	Speaker	6/28/2001
Dr. William Roach	Wastewater Works Operator	Speaker	6/28/2001
Karl Potochnik	OK Rural Water Association	Speaker	4/5/2002

* Denotes Chairman ** Denotes Vice Chairman

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL HOLDS MEETINGS

The Water Quality Management Advisory Council held meetings October 10, 2000, January 9, 2001 and May 8, 2001. The Council was very busy this year as it completed the "re-right/de-wrong" process and made other necessary rule changes. In addition, the

Council tackled a new rule that the legislature required for all state agencies that have environmental responsibilities. This proposed new rule is the Water Quality Standards Implantation rule (OAC 252:690). The Council determined that it was appropriate to create a workgroup

comprised of staff, Council members, an Environmental Quality Board member and representatives from the general public. The workgroup will meet and report back to the Council in November 2001 with a proposed rule to presented in January 2002.

MEMBER	POSITION	APPOINTING OFFICIAL	TERM EXPIRES
Jeffrey Short*	Engineering	Governor	3/1/2004
Marilyn Beilke	General Public	Governor	3/1/2002
Orva Rothgeb	Environmental Organization	Governor	3/1/2000
Bobby Latham**	Industry	President ProTempore of the Senate	3/16/2002
Joseph Warren	Oil Field Related	President ProTempore of the Senate	3/1/2001
Bill Pickens	Geology	President ProTempore of the Senate	3/1/2003
Robert Johnston*	Local Government	Speaker	3/10/2003
Lowell Hobbs	Agriculture	Speaker	3/10/2003
Mark Matheson	Rural Water District	Speaker	6/26/2001

* Denotes Chairman ** Denotes Vice Chairman