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## News Release

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### **Oklahoma Reaches Important Milestone in Public Water Supply Program**

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today that it will soon have full authority to administer the Public Water Supply Supervision (PWS) Program in Oklahoma. Previously due to a lack of funding, DEQ shared responsibility for the program with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DEQ has completed the necessary rule making process with new PWS rules which will be in effect July 1, 2013. The final step in the process before Oklahoma can administer the complete PWS program is the submission and approval of the application by EPA. That is expected in the near future.

“This is an important milestone for Oklahoma that wouldn’t be possible without the leadership of Secretary of Environment Gary Sherrer and support of Governor Mary Fallin and the state Legislature,” said DEQ Executive Director Steve Thompson.

“Shared responsibility for the program led to confusion by water systems that were often subjected to regulation by both the federal and state government,” said Oklahoma Secretary of Environment Gary Sherrer. “Over the past three years, we have worked with stakeholders to develop a funding structure to supplement federal grant funds and state appropriations to administer the PWS program.”

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