

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

December 26, 2014

This is to give notice that the [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) has received an application for a Water Quality Certification for proposed [Grand River Dam Authority](#) (GRDA) activities in [W.R. Holway Reservoir](#). Under [Section 401](#) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the State is required to review any Federal permit regarding activities in navigable waters. The purpose of the Certification review, according to DEQ regulations [[Title 252, Chapter 611-3-1\(a\)](#)], is to determine whether the proposed discharge will comply with the [Oklahoma Water Quality Standards](#) (Title 785, Chapter 45 of Oklahoma Administrative Code), and Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA.

This Public Notice opens on December 26, 2014 and will close on January 27, 2015.



The proposed activity is a re-issuance of the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (FERC) license for FERC Project No. 2524 (henceforth to be called the "Project"). The Project is operation of the Salina pumped storage facility on the W.R. Holway Reservoir (a.k.a. Chimney Rock Reservoir) in Mayes County. The Project utilizes [Lake Hudson](#) as the lower reservoir for pumped storage operations. This re-issuance proposes minor modifications to recreational facilities. The GRDA proposes to operate the Project as it is currently licensed with a normal pool elevation in the W.R. Holway Reservoir of 865 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) and power generation occurring during peak usage periods. The Project is located in Sections 30 & 31, Township 21 North, Range 21 East, in Mayes County, Oklahoma.

A copy of the proposed conditional Certification is enclosed.

If you have any concerns regarding the proposed Water Quality Certification, please submit your comments in writing by the end of the workday on January 22, 2014 to:

Dr. Elena Jigoulina
Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-8200
Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov



You are receiving this notice because you are either on DEQ's list to receive all public notices or you are located downstream in an affected watershed. If you are receiving this notice in error, are getting multiple notices, or do not want to receive future notices, please let us know. In addition, public notices are also sent out about proposed changes in Waste Load Allocations, the Integrated Report, TMDLs, 401 Certification requests, 404 projects, stormwater permits, and the CPP.

If you would like to receive any or all of these public notices via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if you want to receive notices for the entire State or just for your [watershed](#). **By receiving PDF public notices via e-mail, you will help save money and the environment by reducing the amount of paper we use to mail them.** In addition to helping the environment, you will be able to click on helpful FYI hyperlinks.



Note to newspapers: This notice is for informational purposes only. **Do not publish in the legal section or as a legal notice.**

Scott A. Thompson
Executive Director



Mary Fallin
Governor

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

December 11, 2014

Darrell Townsend II, Ph.D.
Director of Ecosystems Management
Grand River Dam Authority
Ecosystems and Education Center
PO Box 70
Langley OK 74350

RE: Water Quality Certification for Grand River Dam Authority Salina Pumped Storage Project new license (Project No. 2524-21).

Dear Dr. Townsend:

We have received your request for a Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act [(1972)], for the activities to be permitted under the FERC license on the Lower Lake Hudson and W.R. Holway Reservoir (a.k.a. Chimney Rock Reservoir) in Section 31, Township 21 North, Range 21 East, in Mayes County, Oklahoma. DEQ rules governing 401 Water Quality Certification are contained in Oklahoma Administrative Code (O.A.C.) § 252:611-3 (2011) pursuant to 27A O.S. § 2-6-103(C)(2) (OSCN 1999).. For copies of the DEQ rules and regulations related to the 401 procedures, please access it online at www.deq.state.ok.us/rules/611.pdf or contact the DEQ Office of External Affairs at (800) 869-1400.

We have reviewed and examined the proposed project and its environmental impacts as described in your application and Draft Environmental Assessment for Hydropower License, Salina Pumped Storage Project-FERC Project No.2524-021(FERC, November 2014). The Lower Lake Hudson and W.R. Holway Reservoir are assigned the following beneficial uses through the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards (WQS): Warm Water Aquatic Community, Public and Private Water Supply, Agriculture: Livestock and Irrigation, Primary Body Contact Recreation, and Aesthetics (OAC 785:45 Appendix A, Table 1). To obtain a copy of the most recent version of the Oklahoma WQS, please go online to http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/rules/pdf_rul/current/Ch45.pdf or contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at (405) 530-8800.

The proposed activity is a relicensing of the existing project. The Project is a pumped storage facility that includes a 762-acre upper reservoir, W.R. Holway Reservoir. The Project utilizes Lake Hudson as the lower reservoir for pumped storage operations. GRDA proposes to operate the Project as it is currently licensed, with a normal pool elevation of W.R. Holway Reservoir of 865 feet NGVD and generation occurring during peak usage periods. The project proposes minor modifications to recreational facilities.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality grants Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification for the Salina Pumped Storage Project license subject to the following conditions.

- 1) This Certification does not authorize the discharge or dredging of soil material in or into Lake Hudson or W.R. Holway Reservoir.
- 2) Emergency and Routine Maintenance shall be permitted under the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit.
- 3) All water quality criteria as specified in OAC 785: 45-5-1 apply to this project and GRDA should comply with those criteria.

(continued next page)

- 4) GRDA shall monitor water quality in W.R. Holway Reservoir in 2014- 2015 as specified in the Salina Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2524) Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Plan dated March, 2014 (Plan). The objective of the monitoring is to determine if operation of the pumped storage facility has an impact on the documented low dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment.
- 5) If operations of W.R. Holway reservoir are determined to contribute to the DO impairment, GRDA shall develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures as stated in the Plan.
- 6) All progress reports regarding the 2014-2015 water quality monitoring study, and development of potential mitigation alternatives outlined in items 4) and 5) of this certification shall be presented to DEQ. The DEQ will use the reports to track the project's progress toward meeting and remaining in compliance with state water quality standards. If adequate progress is not demonstrated, this certification may be revoked.
- 7) DEQ reserves the right to modify or revoke this certification after reviewing and analyzing public comments received on the certification.

If you have any questions regarding this Certification, feel free to contact Elena Jigoulina at 405-702-8200.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Derichsweiler, P.E., Manager
Watershed Planning & Stormwater Permitting
Water Quality Division

cc: Director, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tulsa
Sharon Parrish, EPA Region 6 (6WQ-EM)
Tom Bates, Public Protection Unit Chief, Attorney General of Oklahoma
Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Kimberly D. Bose, FERC, FERC Project Number 2524-21