

Writing Project: Guidance Document

General Water Quality in Oklahoma

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Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT:

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CHAPTER 611.
GENERAL WATER QUALITY**

Effective Date – 01 July 2020



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Oklahoma Commission on Environmental Quality

Tommy Phelps, *Chairman*

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Any Questions?

Check out our frequently asked questions (FAQs) page at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/external-affairs-division/frequently-asked-questions/>

Email link: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/external-affairs-division/contact-ask-deq/>

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Introduction

This guide helps interpret the rules and regulations applicable to Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Chapter 611, for the following: (1) the general public, (2) the regulated community, and (3) responsible state and local officials.

The original document provides the administrative rules and regulations as set forth in Title 27A O.S. § 2-6-102 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Under Title 27A, the purpose is to protect and enforce Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards (OAC 785:45)¹.

This document covers all the aspects on general water quality in Oklahoma, including:

- General requirements in protecting, maintaining, and improving the quality of waters (surface, ground, and other waters)
- Water quality certification requirements
- Common questions and answers on obtaining a water quality certification
- Common questions and answers on conducting environmental assessments and remediation projects
- Appendix A: Water Permit Exceptions
- Appendix B: DEQ mission and vision statement
- Appendix C: Water Quality Standards Rule
- Appendix D: Acronyms and Definitions

Limitations of Guidance Document

Please note that this guide is not a substitute for the actual rule.

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, there may be mistakes contained in this document. A current copy of the rule may be obtained from the DEQ by calling 1-800-869-1400, or online at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/rules-and-regulations/>.

If there are any discrepancies between the rule and those outlined by statute or in the official OAC at the Office of Administrative Rules, the statutes or official rules will prevail².

¹ Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) are all final administrative rules within the Oklahoma Secretary of State's office. The OAC for Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards is 785:45.

² This statement is mentioned in <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/rules-and-regulations/>

Explanation of Guidance Document

The current version of the Water Quality Standards Rule results from the need to protect, maintain and improve the quality of waters of Oklahoma³ by including the following: (1) to provide general requirements in enforcing Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards (OAC 785:45), (2) to provide the requirements of obtaining and maintaining a water quality certification according to the Uniform Permitting Act, and (3) to provide conditions in conducting a groundwater site assessment and remediation plan.

Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) – rules and Executive Orders filed with the Secretary of State as of a given date.

The criteria stated in the Water Quality Standards Rule is for the sole purpose of assuring that degradation of water quality in Oklahoma does not occur and its beneficial uses remain manageable.

Summary of the Rule

The Water Quality Standards Rule covered in Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Chapter 611, implements the broad authority of the DEQ over surface, ground and other waters of Oklahoma⁴, specifying the following:

- Provisions in conducting an environmental assessment at a particular site or location.
- Provisions for applicants seeking an authorization permit to conduct an environmental assessment.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) to maintain source pollution control.
- Planning and waste load allocations.
- Limitations and requirements for applicants seeking a water quality certification.
- Water permit exceptions.
- Approval process and requirements of conducting a site assessment or remediation plan involving groundwater.
- DEQ review considerations of any proposed plan or project listed under the rule.

To obtain a PDF copy of the rule, go to <https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/611.pdf>.

The following section of this guidance document provides a list of common questions and answers related to the Water Quality Standards Rule.

³ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-1.

⁴ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-1.

FAQs - Conducting Environmental Assessments

What does an environmental assessment entail?

An *environmental assessment* (site and natural resource assessment) may be required by the DEQ to determine the nature of pollution at a particular site or location.

This assessment may consist of conducting biological studies, monitoring, sampling, a cost/benefit analysis, and alternative corrective action plans.

Environmental Assessment – assessing the environmental consequences of a plan or project prior to making the decision to move forward with that action⁵. An environmental assessment is also termed as a site and natural resource assessment.

Are there any specific limitations with conducting these assessments?

Deadlines may be set in submitting portions of the assessment and/or the final assessment. You may refer to your local agency for additional information or online at www.localagencylaws.gov.

How are costs factored when conducting environmental assessments?

The cost of environmental assessments is paid by the responsible party (i.e., ones conducting the assessment) or as allowed by law⁶. You may refer to your local agency for additional information or online at www.localagencylaws.gov.

FAQs – Water Quality Certification

What are the requirements to obtain a water quality certification in order to conduct environmental assessments?

The water quality certification falls under the Clean Water Act Section 401 Rule (OAC 252:611-3)⁷.

Some specific requirements of this rule include⁸:

- 401 certification needs to be requested from DEQ *only*.
- Copies of the following are needed to process the application: (1) a current federal permit, license, or authorization, if applicable, (2) any relevant documentation (i.e., maps, drawings, studies, environmental impact assessments), if applicable (3) description of location (i.e., where the project will take place), (4) description of all surface water, groundwater, or natural resources potentially affected by the project, and (5) summary of any plans of modification to location, if applicable.

⁵ Definition included in “Environmental impact assessment”,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessmenthttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessment

⁶ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-4.

⁷ Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) for Clean Water Act Section 401 Rule is 252:611-3.

⁸ Statements are retrieved from “Water Quality Certifications – CWA §401”, <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/water-quality-certification/>

- A pre-filing meeting request is required to be submitted to DEQ at least 30 days *prior to* submitting a certification request.

Note: A pre-filing meeting involves the Oklahoma Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) staff members and responsible party and is used to discuss any details of the environmental assessment. To schedule a meeting, submit a request through the following email address: oepea@massmail.state.ok.us.

- 30 days after submitting a pre-filing meeting request, a Request for Certification (RFC) form may be submitted to DEQ.
- A \$100 non-refundable fee is charged for the DEQ Water Quality Certification and paid by the applicant. Submission of this payment and the RFC form will begin the water quality certification review process.

Note: The certification review process by DEQ will not begin until payment has been received by the applicant.

Are there any exceptions for obtaining a water quality certificate?

Yes. See Appendix A for a list of permits which fall under this exception.

Please note that any waivers for certification must be written and signed by the DEQ. The waiver must also include the location of the assessment.

How long is the certificate valid for?

This certificate will need to be renewed on an annual basis. However, the exception to this are parties who already obtain a federal permit.

For example, if the federal permit expired in 18 months, then there is no need to renew the certificate after one (1) year.

****See Appendix A for a list of eligible permits. ****

Need Additional Information on Water Quality Certifications??



You may refer to following website: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/water-quality-certification/> and click on the drop-down + 401 Certification Information for additional information.

FAQs – Groundwater Environmental Assessments and Remediation Projects

What are the requirements for conducting environmental assessments and remediation projects on groundwater?

Responsible parties shall comply with Oklahoma Water Resources Board requirements for remediation project *only* and the DEQ for environmental assessments.

Specific requirements for groundwater include:

- Prior approval is needed by the DEQ for conducting *both* remediation projects and site assessments.
- *Discharge to waters which result from remediation of groundwater.* A permit is required under the Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act (OPDES) or a 401 water quality certification⁹. Please refer to <https://www.deq.ok.gov/divisions/wqd/> for additional information on OPDES. If the responsible party already has a water quality certification, then this permit should suffice.

Note: See page 7 of this guidance document for obtaining a water quality certification.

- Additional actions requiring a permit under OPDES or a 401 water quality certification include: (1) drilling of groundwater monitoring wells, (2) sampling of groundwater, (3) recordkeeping/reporting of activities related to project or assessment, (4) mitigation, and (5) any other actions to prevent, control, or decrease pollution.

Remediation Project – involves the *treatment* (i.e., cleaning or discharging) of groundwater at its present location in order to remove any pollutants. Also termed as groundwater remediation.

Groundwater monitoring wells – used for level monitoring of groundwater and conducting a water quality analysis.

⁹ Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) for Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act (OPDES) is 252:605.

FAQs – Application Process for Conducting a Groundwater Site Assessment or Remediation Project

What is the application process for conducting a groundwater remediation project or site assessment?

Below is a summary of information needed to process the application:

- Applicant's name and address.
- Full name and address of property owner.
- Name and address of responsible parties (i.e., ones responsible for events related to pollution and/or remediation efforts).
- Copies of relevant studies that have been completed, if applicable.
- Map of the site location.
- Any documentation or reports on spills, discharges, suspected pollutants, etc.
- Proposed location of groundwater monitoring wells and sampling points, if applicable.
- Location of water wells, sewers, utility lines, buildings, and any other structures.
- Any drawings or other illustrations describing groundwater flow.

Note: the DEQ may request additional information upon receipt of application.

What considerations are made by the DEQ upon review of this proposal or application?

Below are considerations made by the DEQ resulting from actions related to site assessments and remediation projects:

- Existing and future effects of contamination.
- Existing and future effects of the affected aquifer and any underlying ones¹⁰
- Technology available for clean-up
- Current knowledge on health and environmental effects of pollutants.
- Corrective action levels of pollutants as specified in the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards.
- Clean up levels for pollutants as specified in the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards.

Aquifer – defined as an area of rock that is completely saturated and surrounded by water.

A current copy of the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards Regulations is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-regulations-oklahoma> or a PDF copy may be retrieved from: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-12/documents/okwqs_chapter45.pdf.

¹⁰ Definition of aquifer retrieved from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/aquifer>.

Related Sources

A variety of sources were used to produce this document and are listed below:

- “About DEQ,” Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/about-deq/#:~:text=OUR%20MISSION%20AND%20VISION,even%20better%20place%20to%20live>. Accessed: 01-May-2021.
- “Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1996 to Present,” <https://www.govinfo.gov/help/cfr>. Accessed: 04-May-2021.
- “Definition of Aquifer,” Collins Dictionary, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/aquifer>. Accessed: 30-April-2021.
- “Environmental Impact Assessment,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessmenthttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessment. Accessed: 03-May-2021.
- “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES),” United States Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>. Accessed: 04-May-2021.
- “Rules and Regulations,” Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/rules-and-regulations/>. Accessed: 01-May-2021.
- “Title 252. Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611. General Water Quality,” Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), <https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/611.pdf>. Accessed 04-May-2021.
- “Water Quality Certifications – CWA §401,” <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning>. Accessed: 01-May-2021.
- “Water Quality Division,” Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), <https://www.deq.ok.gov/divisions/wqd/>. Accessed: 01-May-2021.

Appendix A: List of Permit Exceptions

What type of federal certification applications are managed through the DEQ?

The DEQ issues, renews and modifies water quality certifications including, but not limited to, the following list. Please note that copies of these documents are required by the responsible party in order for permit exceptions to be granted.

The types of federal applications are listed in Table 1 below¹¹:

AGENCY NAME	APPLICATION AND/OR PROGRAM NAME
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Applications to construct and operate a hydroelectric facility
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Applications for a license to operate a facility
U.S. Coast Guard	Applications for a permit resulting in discharge of wastewater or pollutants into <i>navigable</i> (or seaworthy) waters.

¹¹ Types of federal applications are mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-3-1.

Appendix B: Mission and Vision of DEQ

Mission and Vision of DEQ¹²

Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is to protect people through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land on which we thrive, helping to make Oklahoma an even better place to live.

Vision

Vision is to eliminate the effects of unintended consequences of historic development, to prevent new adverse environmental impacts and to provide significant input into national decision making, all the while enhancing both the environment and the economy of Oklahoma.

¹² This statement is mentioned in “About DEQ”, <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/about-deq/#:~:text=OUR%20MISSION%20AND%20VISION,even%20better%20place%20to%20live>.

Appendix C: Water Quality Standard Rule

The Water Quality Standard Rule is reproduced from 252:611 General Water Quality. A current copy of the rule may be obtained from the DEQ by calling 405-702-0100, or <https://www.deq.ok.gov/asd/rules-and-regulations/>

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

252:611-1-1.

Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to protect, maintain and improve the quality of waters of the state, as set forth in Title 27A O.S. § 2-6-102 and to enforce and protect Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards (OAC 785:45). This Chapter implements the broad authority of the DEQ over surface, ground and other waters of the state.

252:611-1-2.

Definitions

In addition to definitions adopted by reference, the following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- **“CPP”** means the continuing planning process documents required pursuant to this chapter and 40 CFR Part 130.
- **“Discharge point”** means the point at which wastes enter waters of the state or become waters of the state.
- **“Underground storage systems”** means storage tanks, containers and other storage reservoirs, transfer lines, pumps, fittings, overfill prevention devices, and any associated anticorrosion measures and/or leak prevention/detection systems, the volume of which is 10% or more beneath the surface of the ground.

252:611-1-3.

Adoption and Incorporation by Reference

40 CFR Part 130 is adopted and incorporated by reference, as published on July 1, 2010, and the requirements contained therein are, unless otherwise specified, adopted and incorporated by reference in their entirety.

252:611-1-4.

Site and Natural Resource Assessment

- (a) When necessary, the DEQ may require a site assessment to determine the nature of pollution at a site.
- (b) The cost of environmental assessments shall be paid by the responsible party(ies) or as allowed by law. Requirements for the conduct of and the content of natural resource assessments may include short term and long-term biological studies, monitoring, sampling, pathway assessment, cost/benefit analysis, and the development of alternative corrective action, remediation, replacement and mitigation plans. Appropriate deadlines may be set for completion and submittal of portions of the assessment and the final assessment.

252:611-1-5.

Uniform Permitting

In addition to the requirements of the Code and this Chapter, all applicants seeking permits or other authorizations are subject to the tiered application procedural requirements of the Oklahoma Uniform Environmental Permitting Act, 27A O.S. § 2-14-101 *et seq.* and rules promulgated thereunder.

252:611-1-6.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control

Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be required in the watersheds of Scenic Rivers and Outstanding Resource Waters as designated in the OWQS.

252:611-1-7.

Planning and Wasteload Allocations

Compliance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 130 and the CPP is required prior to issuance of a permit by the DEQ under OAC 252:606 for a new facility or modified permit that increases an existing limit for flow or pollutant load or adds a new pollutant.

SUBCHAPTER 3. CERTIFICATIONS

252:611-3-1.

Water Quality Certifications Required

(a) **Certification from state required.** In accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and the Environmental Quality Code, any applicant for a federal license, permit or project to conduct any activity including but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities, dredge or fill, or other activities, which may result in any discharge into, or pollution or alteration of the waters of the State of Oklahoma, shall first obtain a water quality certification from the DEQ for such activity, facility or discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA, OWQS, and other applicable state requirements.

(b) **Types of federal applications for which certification issued.** The DEQ issues, renews and modifies water quality certifications including, but not limited to, the following list. However, certification is not required for state issued NPDES Permits.

- (1) Permits issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program;
- (2) Permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Section 404 permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill materials;
- (3) Applications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a federal license to construct and operate a hydroelectric facility;
- (4) Applications to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license to operate a facility; and
- (5) Permit issued by the U.S. Coast Guard that results in the discharge of wastewater or pollutants into navigable waters.

252:611-3-2.

Requirements for Certification

(a) An application for a water quality certification shall be made in writing pursuant to the requirements of the Uniform Permitting Act and shall clearly state that the applicant is requesting a 401-water quality certification and include:

- (1) one copy of the application for the corresponding federal permit, or license for federal authorization of activities;
- (2) one copy of any draft federal permit, license, or authorization, if available;

- (3) copies of any relevant maps, drawings, studies, environmental impact assessments, plans, information relating to endangered, rare or threatened species including Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or exemption, and other appropriate documents;
- (4) a legal description of the project location;
- (5) a description of all surface water, groundwater, or natural resources potentially affected by the proposed activities;
- (6) one copy of any mitigation plan, when mitigation is required by a federal entity; and
- (7) a one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) non-refundable application fee. To assist in meeting rising costs to the Department for the issuance of 401 water quality certifications, the application fee amount shall be automatically adjusted on July 1st every year to correspond to the percentage, if any, by which the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the most recent calendar year exceeds the CPI for the previous calendar year. The Department may round the adjusted fee up to the nearest dollar. The Department may waive collection of an automatic increase in a given year if it determines other revenues, including appropriated state general revenue funds, have increased sufficiently to make the funds generated by the automatic adjustment unnecessary in that year. A waiver does not affect future automatic adjustments.
- (1) Any automatic fee adjustment under this subsection may be averted or eliminated, or the adjustment percentage may be modified, by rule promulgated pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act. The rulemaking process may be initiated in any manner provided by law, including a petition for rulemaking pursuant to 75 O.S. §305 and OAC 252:4-5-3 by any person affected by the automatic fee adjustment.
- (2) If the United States Department of Labor ceases to publish the CPI or revises the methodology or base years, no further automatic fee adjustments shall occur until a new automatic fee adjustment rule is promulgated pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act.
- (3) For purposes of this subsection, “Consumer Price Index” or “CPI” means the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers (U.S. All Items, Current Series, 1982-1984=100, CUUR0000SA0) published by the United States Department of Labor. The CPI for a calendar year is the figure denoted by the Department of Labor as the “Annual” index figure for that calendar year.
- (b) The applicant shall provide copies of any applicable water quality-related comments and responses received in response to any public notice, if any.
- © Additional information may be required by the DEQ.
- (d) Applications that do not contain the information list above are incomplete.
- © The federal agency may submit an application for certification or other information on behalf of the applicant. The applicant is responsible to provide any additional information requested by the DEQ and ensure that the application is complete.

252:611-3-3.

Public Notice

- (a) If public notice has not been made by the appropriate federal agency, the DEQ will mail notice of certification application to all interested persons who have submitted a written request to the DEQ to receive such notices.
- (b) The DEQ will coordinate certifications for NPDES permits with the U.S. EPA in a manner which is consistent with EPA regulations in 40 CFR ‘124.53; provided however, that if a time in excess of sixty days from the date the draft permit is mailed to the DEQ is necessary for certification, the DEQ reserves the right to notify the Regional Administrator that a longer time is required.

252:611-3-4.

Conditional Certification

A conditional certification shall only be effective if the federal agency includes in the federal permit or authorization, all limitations, requirements and conditions specified by the DEQ in the conditional certification. The conditions may include effluent or other limitations, monitoring requirements, and any

other terms and conditions deemed necessary to assure that the discharge and associated activities will comply with the applicable water quality requirements.

252:611-3-5.

Waiver

Any waiver of the requirements for certification must be written and signed by the DEQ and must specify the activities and location for which the waiver is issued.

252:611-3-6.

Duration of Certification

A certification shall be valid until the corresponding federal permit, license or authorization is terminated, renewed or modified. Before a federal permit is reissued, renewed, or modified, the applicant shall file a new application for certification with the DEQ. The certification may be revoked or modified upon subsequent amendments or revisions to State water quality requirements, modification, revocation, or expiration of the federal permit, license or authorization to which the certification is addressed.

SUBCHAPTER 5. GROUNDWATER POLLUTION CONTROL

252:611-5-1.

Proposed or Required Site Assessment and Remediation Projects

- (a) Any person proposing remediation of or required by the Department to take action to remediate groundwater shall comply with any applicable requirements of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for withdrawal and requirements of the Department for site assessment and remediation.
- (b) Any person proposing a remediation project relating to ground water or required to undertake such a project by the DEQ is required to obtain prior approval by the DEQ of a site assessment plan and remediation plan.
- (c) Any discharge to waters of the state resulting from remediation of groundwater shall require an authorization or permit under the Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act and rules promulgated thereunder (OAC 252:605), or a 401 water quality certification, as appropriate. Other disposal methods may also require separate permits, plans or authorizations from the Department.
- (d) The applicant shall comply with requirements of the DEQ relating to the drilling of monitoring wells, sampling, performance of laboratory analyses, recordkeeping, reporting, onsite revegetation, mitigation, or other actions to prevent, abate or control pollution.

252:611-5-2.

Application for Approval of Plan

- (a) Each application for the DEQ's approval of a ground water site assessment and remediation plan shall contain the following information:
 - (1) name and address of applicant, the owner of the property, and, where known, identification of person(s) who may be responsible for any pollution events and/or remediation efforts;
 - (2) copy of pertinent studies already completed;
 - (3) a topographic map of the area and information regarding the groundwater resources potentially affected;
 - (4) description of the pollutants suspected to occur and any reports related to spills, discharges, or other pollution events;
 - (5) proposed location of monitoring wells and sampling points as appropriate;
 - (6) drawings and data sufficient to describe groundwater flow and geological features;
 - (7) location of water wells, sewers, utility lines, buildings and other significant structures.
- (b) The DEQ may require the submission of other information as necessary for the evaluation of the proposed plan. The DEQ may require analyses of samples by a laboratory certified by the DEQ, specify

additional or modified sampling and monitoring requirements, require records and specify reporting requirements.

252:611-5-3.

Review by the DEQ

Among the factors to be considered by the DEQ in review of any proposed plan or project under this Subchapter are:

- (1) Corrective action levels of pollutants or clean up levels for pollutants specified in the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards;
- (2) Existing and future effects of the contamination;
- (3) Existing and future uses of the affected aquifer and underlying aquifers;
- (4) Current technology for such clean-up;
- (5) Current knowledge on health and environmental effects of varying concentrations of pollutants.

Appendix D: Acronyms and Definitions

This section provides a list of acronyms applicable to the Water Quality Standard Rule.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Aquifer	N/A	An area of rock that is completely saturated and surrounded by water.
Best Management Practices	BMPs	A combination of practices, determined to be an effective means of preventing or reducing the number of pollutants into local waterbodies ¹³ .
Code of Federal Regulations	CFR	The codification of general and permanent rules. Published in the Federal Register by departments and agencies of the federal government ¹⁴ .
Continuing Planning Process	CPP	Documents required pursuant to the rule and 40 CFR Part 130 ¹⁵ .
Department of Environmental Quality	DEQ	
Discharge point	N/A	Point at which wastes enter waters of the state or become waters of the state ¹⁶ .
Groundwater monitoring wells	N/A	Used for level monitoring of groundwater and conducting a water quality analysis.
Oklahoma Administrative Code	OAC	Rules and Executive Orders filed with the Secretary of State as of a given date.
Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act	OPDES	Permit regulations are more state-specific and include groundwater discharges. Administered and enforced by the DEQ Water Quality Division.

¹³ Google Search: “Best Management Practices for Water Quality”.

¹⁴ This statement is mentioned in <https://www.govinfo.gov/help/cfr>.

¹⁵ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-2.

¹⁶ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-2.

Term	Acronym	Definition
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	NPDES	Permit program which addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the U.S. ¹⁷
Remediation project	N/A	Involves the treatment (i.e., cleaning or discharging) of groundwater at its present location in order to remove any pollutants. Also termed as groundwater remediation.
Underground storage system	N/A	Includes storage tanks, containers and other storage reservoirs, transfer lines, pumps, fittings, overfill prevention devices, and any associated anticorrosion measures and/or leak prevention/detection systems, the volume of which is 10% or more beneath the surface of the ground ¹⁸ .

¹⁷ This statement is mentioned in <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>.

¹⁸ This statement is mentioned in “Title 252, Department of Environmental Quality Chapter 611”, Section 252:611-1-2.