

Oklahoma

Water  
News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

## "Balancing the Interests" Theme of Water Conference Dec. 14

*Can clean water and economic progress coexist?*

Economic development proponents and clean water enthusiasts often find themselves on opposite sides of a sharply drawn line. The Ninth Annual Oklahoma Water Conference will examine the dilemma cities and states face in achieving clean water goals without closing the door on new industry.

Water Resources Board Chairman Robert S. Kerr Jr. will open the conference at the Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City at 8:30 a.m. by introducing the keynote topic to be addressed by the first four speakers. Representatives of the major federal "water" agencies will discuss contributions to water quality.



Brig. Gen. Robert C. Lee

Brig. Gen. Robert C. Lee, commander and division engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Southwestern Division, will lead off on the topic by recapping the Corps' national and regional water quality programs. Before Lee's assignment to the



Terry L. Childers

Southwestern Division in January 1988, he was chief of staff at Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He prescribed policy for more than 40,000 employees in 50 states and 39 countries and executed an annual \$10 billion civil works program. He has served as commander of the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Miss., the Corps' five-laboratory complex researching hydraulics, geotechnical, structural, environmental



Gov. Henry Bellmon

and coastal engineering.

Representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey will complete the overview of federal efforts to upgrade and protect water quality in the region and the nation.

Co-keynoters will be Billy Martin, Director of the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation; Joseph D. Winkle, Deputy Administrator of Region VI of the Environmental Protection Agency; and Charles R. Burchett, District Chief of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Responding to national concerns on groundwater pollution, conference sponsors invited as a featured speaker Marian Mlay, director of EPA's Office of Groundwater Protection in Washington, D.C. Mlay is national program manager for the agency's efforts in protecting and restoring

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groundwater quality. She will discuss new groundwater standards, pollution threats—including leaking underground storage tanks—and proposed groundwater protection regulations and their potential impact on Oklahoma's economy.

**How can Oklahoma cities and towns afford costs?**

"Costs and Benefits of Clean Water" will be examined by panelists representing municipal, industrial, environmental and agricultural interests. Leading off will be City Manager Terry L. Childers of Oklahoma City, whose guidance in bringing metro wastewater treatment facilities into compliance with Clean Water Act deadlines made Oklahoma City a model for the nation. Prior to his Oklahoma City appointment in September 1986, Childers was senior assistant city manager for Austin, Texas.

Amplifying the same "Costs and Benefits" topic will be James P. Odendahl, manager of environmental and regulatory affairs for the Weyerhaeuser Company, representing industry; James W. Bennett, executive director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, speaking for environmental interests; and Sen. Ed Long, a Garber, Oklahoma, farmer/rancher/businessman, representing agriculture.

Conferees will have an opportunity to view water quality issues from the Capitol Hill perspective through the eyes of the Congressional Delegation. Washington guests will examine prospects for national environmental legislation.

The luncheon program will feature an address by Gov. Henry Bellmon, who will be introduced by Secretary of Natural Resources Glenn Sullivan.

Following the governor to the podium, four members of the Oklahoma Legislature will recap recent "water" laws and explore the prospects for water development and water quality legislation in the Forty-Second Session. Panelists will be Sen. Ray Giles, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; Sen. Ben Brown, chairman of the Natural Resources and Regulatory Services Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; Rep. Cal Hobson, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee; and Rep. Glen D. Johnson, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and Budget.

Closing the Ninth Annual Oklahoma Water Conference will be presentation of 1988 Water Pioneer awards. The award was initiated by 1985 water conference sponsors to recognize the men and women who have made exceptional contributions to the development of water resources and the protection of water quality. Each

year, the Oklahoma Water Pioneer plaque is displayed at the conference, inscribed with the names of new honorees.

Registration for the 1988 Oklahoma Water Conference costs \$25. To ensure accommodation at the Conference, complete the registration form in this issue and mail it today with your check, money order or purchase order.

For additional information, call Conference Coordinators Mary Whitlow or Brian Vance at the OWRB, (405) 271-2523.



**Standards Meetings Set**

In an effort to receive input from Oklahomans on proposed 1988 Water Quality Standards, the OWRB has scheduled two public meetings in Oklahoma City. The informal meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. November 29 and December 20 at the Department of Wildlife Conservation Auditorium, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.

The Board's Water Quality Division is currently completing the Standards' triennial revision process. According to Dave Dillon, Water Quality Division chief, public meetings allow the OWRB to receive feedback from citizens interested in protecting the integrity of state waters.

"The Oklahoma Water Quality Standards is the single most important document for restoring and maintaining the quality of Oklahoma's ground and surface waters. They reflect the state's interests and attitudes toward preventing, reducing and eliminating pollution," he pointed out.

Key changes in the proposed 1988 Standards deal with various beneficial use designations, development of numerical toxics criteria, and implementation of narrative toxics criteria and the state's Anti-degradation Policy. Dillon added that the Board anticipates holding public rule-making hearings in mid-January to receive more formal comments on proposed changes in the standards document.

For additional information on 1988

**Oklahoma Water Conference**  
**% Oklahoma Water Resources Board**  
**P.O. Box 53585**  
**Oklahoma City, Okla. 73152**

Please make check, money order or purchase order payable to OKLAHOMA WATER CONFERENCE. No refunds considered after December 7. Registration includes luncheon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Water Quality Standards or upcoming meetings, call Shon Simpson at (405) 271-2541.

### Re-study Yields More Water

A re-study of available water in Tenkiller Reservoir has yielded nearly 12,000 acre-feet of additional water for consumptive use, according to Stream Water Division Chief J.A. Wood.

Earlier this year, Greenleaf Nursery Company filed an application for irrigation water from Tenkiller. Upon review, Stream Water Division staff determined that the proposed permit would exceed the amount of water determined in a dependable yield study of Tenkiller done by the Corps of Engineers upon the reservoir's completion in the early 1950s.

"To update Lake Tenkiller's appropriative potential from its water supply pool, we recently asked the Corps to conduct another dependable yield study. We thought that perhaps the yield had improved over the years due to above average rainfall and runoff," Wood said.

Results of the re-study verified an extra 11,872 acre-feet of water per year available for appropriation by permit, he added. Subsequently, Greenleaf Nursery's permit to irrigate with Tenkiller water has been approved by the nine-member Water Board. Others interested in filing a permit application for use of Tenkiller Reservoir water should contact the OWRB's Stream Water Division at (405) 371-2567.

### Streamflow Summary Ready

An updated ten-year summary of streamflow in Oklahoma has been completed and is now available at offices of the OWRB, according to J.A. Wood, Stream Water Division chief.

The report, entitled "Statistical Summaries of Streamflow Records in Oklahoma and Parts of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Texas through 1984," results from a cooperative effort between the OWRB and U.S. Geological Survey. The summary is revised and updated every ten years and contains streamflow records from

the early 1900's. Data originate from 148 USGS stream gage stations with at least 10 years of record, Wood said.

"The summary is invaluable to this agency," he pointed out. "Along with hydrologic surveys, it helps the Stream Water Division determine how much water is available for appropriation to new water users. In addition, our Water Quality, Engineering and Planning and Development Divisions frequently use data from the summary for various purposes."

The historical report contains a wide variety of historical streamflow statistics including data on daily, monthly and annual discharges, flow duration, and frequencies of low, high and peak flow. Copies of the report may be obtained by calling OWRB Librarian Susan Lutz at 271-2553.

### OSU Students Design Entrance

An October 3 ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official dedication of a new entrance to the Port of Catoosa northeast of Tulsa. Shown in the photos below are one of two lighted brick signs and a new Port security office designed by the OSU School of Architecture. The month-long, \$250,000 beautification project also added trees and sod to the entrance grounds, according to Port Director Bob Portiss.

"As compensation for designing the project, the Rogers County Port Authority contributed to the School of Architecture's scholarship fund," he pointed out. "They did a wonderful job."

The Port of Catoosa, on the Verdigris River 15 miles northeast of Tulsa, is the head of navigation of the 445-mile-long Arkansas River Navigation System.

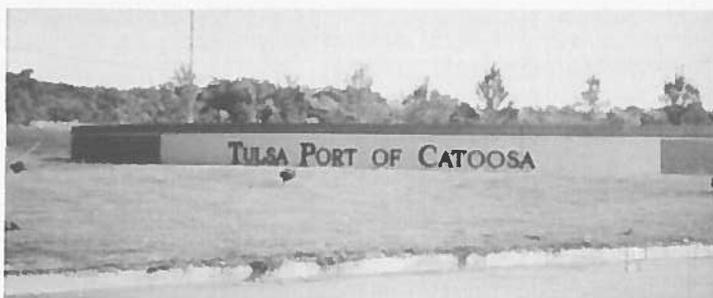
### Collider Has Drawbacks, Too!

When Oklahoma failed in its bid to be considered as a host state for the proposed superconducting collider, many citizens and lawmakers were disheartened. Jobs, prestige and economic diversity were predicted if the federal Department of Energy were to choose Oklahoma as the site.

Recently, a Texas site was chosen for construction of the multi-million dollar proton-smasher which will be housed in a 53-mile, 1,000-foot-wide oval tunnel 35 feet underground.

But perhaps Oklahomans can find solace in the fact that their state was not selected as home for the facility. *U.S. Water News* points out that a recent draft report from the DOE predicts that the conductor could adversely affect the water resources of its host state—with the possible exception of Arizona. The report estimates that the facility could destroy 350 wells at the Tennessee site; 320

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at the Illinois site, located west of Chicago; 80 wells in Michigan, southeast of Lansing; 18 in Colorado, northeast of Denver; nine in North Carolina, near its northern border; two in Texas, south of Dallas; and

none at the desert site southeast of Phoenix, Arizona.

In addition, the report states that the super collider would cause local aquifer levels to decline at the Illinois, Michigan and Texas sites. And there is some potential for floodplain en-

croachment at the site in Illinois. Construction of the facility could also destroy thousands of acres of wetlands: 2,800 acres in Michigan, 850 in Illinois, 258 in North Carolina, 20 in Colorado, 10 in Tennessee and Texas, and none in Arizona.

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS  
AS OF NOVEMBER 10, 1988**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST			Wister	49,715	78.6 <sup>4</sup>
Atoka	69,023	55.9	Sardis	284,653	94.1
Broken Bow	842,816	91.8	NORTHEAST		
Pine Creek	76,146	98.0 <sup>4</sup>	Eucha	58,800	73.9
Hugo	133,960	85.0	Grand	1,276,981	85.6
McGee Creek	99,040	90.2	Oologah	470,768	86.5
CENTRAL			Hulah	28,820	94.2
Thunderbird	92,896	87.7	Fort Gibson	335,619	91.9
Hefner	74,300	98.6	Heyburn	6,448	97.7
Overholser	15,935	100.0	Birch	18,739	97.6
Draper	85,100	85.1	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Arcadia	27,280	99.6 <sup>1</sup>	Spavinaw	29,010	96.7
SOUTH CENTRAL			Copan	41,838	96.4
Arbuckle	55,313	88.4	Skiatook	280,433	87.8
Texoma	2,447,786	92.8	NORTH CENTRAL		
Waurika	193,961	95.5	Kaw	428,600	100.0
SOUTHWEST			Keystone	572,264	92.9
Altus	87,971	66.2	NORTHWEST		
Fort Cobb	75,365	96.1	Canton	68,738	70.5
Foss	161,890	66.4 <sup>2</sup>	Optima		
Tom Steed	81,497	91.6	Fort Supply	13,844	99.6
EAST CENTRAL			Great Salt Plains	29,861	95.1
Eufaula	2,131,676	91.5			
Tenkiller	583,575	93.0	<b>STATE TOTALS</b>	<b>11,458,141</b>	<b>89.5<sup>3</sup></b>

1. In initial filling stage
2. Temporarily lowered for maintenance
3. Conservation storage for Lake Optima not included in state total
4. Seasonal pool operation

Data courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, and City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

This monthly newsletter, printed by the Central Printing Division of the Office of Public Affairs, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is published by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as authorized by James R. Barnett, executive director. Ten thousand copies are printed and distributed monthly at an approximate cost of 20 cents each.

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**OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS**

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
1000 N.E. Tenth, P.O. Box 53585  
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73152

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