

# OKLAHOMA WATER QUALITY STANDARDS INFORMAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
November 3, 2016

# Background

- **Desire to augment water supplies in response to extreme drought**
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Workgroup formed in 2015**
- **Necessitated a change to water quality standards**

# ASR Workgroup

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Burns & McDonnell

Carollo Engineers

City of Ada

Groundwater Protection Council

Honorable Scott Martin—Oklahoma State Legislature

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry

Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Oklahoma Geological Survey

Oklahoma Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment

United States Geological Survey

# What Is Oklahoma's Current Groundwater Protection Philosophy?

- **Protect existing water quality**
- **Minimize impact of pollutants**
- **Allow for untreated drinking water use**
- **Provide an Implementation Framework and Corrective Action**

## Goals of the Chapter 45 Revision

- **Maintain high level of protection for human health**
- **Clarify protection policy to allow for utilization of groundwater**
- **Create more definitive protection for users of raw, untreated drinking water**
- **Create targets to protect beneficial uses**

# What Does Revision Accomplish for Protection?

- 1. At a minimum, beneficial uses are maintained and protected in all fresh groundwaters**
- 2. Existing water quality protection is maintained for all fresh ground waters...**
- 3. BUT... establishes a framework to allow for utilization of fresh groundwaters**
- 4. Special Source Groundwaters—existing water quality always maintained and protected**

# Classes and Beneficial Uses

- **3 Classes of Groundwater based on TDS**
- **Water Supply Uses**
  - Created “Domestic Untreated Water Supply”
  - Maintained “Public Water Supply” Use
  - Apply to Class II Waters
- “Agriculture” and “Industrial/Municipal Process and Cooling Water” Uses Apply to all Classes

# Proposed Criteria

- **Allowance of naturally occurring background above criteria**
- **Organized by criteria groups (e.g., microorganisms, chemical constituents, etc.)**
- **Provision to protect groundwater quality from surface water activities and surface water quality from groundwater activities**

# Proposed Criteria

- **Narrative—provide generalized prohibitions and apply to all uses**
- **Numeric—provide parameter-specific numeric endpoints and apply to drinking water uses**
- **Human Health Protection**
  - **Safe Drinking Water Act primary/secondary MCL's**
  - **Clean Water Act human health criteria**

# Changes since October 3 Stakeholder Meeting

## ➤ Clarifying Changes

- “...constructed infiltration basins ...” in 45-7-2(d)(1)(b)
- Narrative criteria may be translated to numeric criteria (45-7-4(b))
- “When regulating groundwater quality activities...” in 45-7-4(d)

## ➤ Artificial Recharge (AR)/Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

- Numeric criteria specifically apply to AR and ASR activities in groundwaters with a designated drinking water use
- Narrative criteria still apply to all uses in all groundwaters
- Defined “limits” as “maximum contaminant limits”
- Where overlap exists between SDWA and Human Health Criteria, use the MCL

## 2016-2017 Rulemaking Schedule

- **First Informal Public Stakeholder Meeting (October 7)**
- **Second Informal Public Stakeholder Meeting (November 3 at 1:30pm)**
- **Gubernatorial Review (November 18)**
- **Notice of Rulemaking and Formal Comment Period (December through mid-January 2017)**
- **Board Hearing (January 17, 2017)**
- **Board Consideration and Vote (February 21, 2017)**
- **Legislative/Gubernatorial Consideration/Publication and Certification (through September/October 2017)**

# Questions and Discussion

## Contact Information

Monty Porter

Phone: 405-530-8933

[Monty.porter@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Monty.porter@owrb.ok.gov)

Rebecca Veiga Nascimento

Phone: 405-530-8952

[Rebecca.veiga@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Rebecca.veiga@owrb.ok.gov)

