TITLE 785. OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
CHAPTER 50. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RULEMAKING ACTION:
Notice of proposed PERMANENT rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

785:50-1-4. Application of rules [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. Applications for Financial Assistance
785:50-5-1. Application form and required information [AMENDED]

Subchapter 6. Water and Sewer Program Emergency Grants Requirements and Procedures
785:50-6-1. Approval criteria [AMENDED]
785:50-6-3. Emergency grant priority point system [AMENDED]

Subchapter 7. Water and Sewer Program (State Loan Program Revenue Bond) Requirements and Procedures
785:50-7-2. Approval criteria [AMENDED]

Subchapter 8. Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant Program Requirements and Procedures
785:50-8-3. Application review and disposition [AMENDED]
785:50-8-5. REAP grant priority point system [AMENDED]

Subchapter 9. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Regulations
Part 3. General Program Requirements
Part 7. SRF Environmental Review Process
785:50-9-60. Requirement of environmental review [AMENDED]

SUMMARY:

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board ("OWRB") proposes to amend this Chapter of the Oklahoma Administrative Code ("OAC") as follows:

Section 785:50-1-4 is proposed to add language that allows the program to waive certain requirements for communities that have been declared to be in a state of emergency by the federal or state government. The intended effect is to allow the financial programs administered by the OWRB to be more efficient and effective in times of a declared emergency.

Sections 785:50-5-1, 785:50-6-1, 785:50-7-2, and 785:50-8-3 are proposed to update and correct language to reflect current procedure. The intended effect is to make the rules more cohesive.

Section 785:50-6-3 is proposed to remove Emergency Category #3. The intended effect is to remove language that is superfluous and to make the rules easier for applicants to understand.

Section 785:50-8-5 is proposed to add sustainability in the points system for REAP Grants. The intended effect is to add points for communities that are making long term planning for their water and wastewater systems.

Sections 785:50-9-23 and 785:50-9-60 are proposed to update language to reflect current Federal Law. The intended effect is to clarify and make the language easily understood for applicants while complying with Federal and State Law.

Other amendments may be considered as a result of public comments.

AUTHORITY:
Oklahoma Water Resources Board; 82 O.S. § 1085.2; 82 O.S. §§ 1085.31 et seq.; 82 O.S. §§ 1085.51 et seq.; 62 O.S. § 2003.

COMMENT PERIOD:
Persons wishing to present data, views, or arguments orally or in writing may do so to Kate Burum at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, or by email to Kate.Burum@owrb.ok.gov. Comments must be received by the OWRB no later than the close of the public hearing on January 15, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING:
A public hearing will be held January 15, 2019 during the monthly meeting of the OWRB which will begin at 9:30 A.M. in the Board Room of the OWRB's offices located at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:
The OWRB requests that any business entities affected by these proposed rules provide the OWRB, in dollar amounts if possible, the increase in the level of direct costs such as fees, and indirect costs such as reporting, recordkeeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs expected to be incurred by a particular entity due to compliance with the proposed rules. Business entities may submit this information in writing to Kate Burum at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, during the comment period from December 3, 2018 to the close of the public hearing held on January 15, 2019.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:
Copies of the proposed amendments may be reviewed at the OWRB's office location at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, or may be obtained from the "Contact Person" identified below upon prepayment of the copying charge. The proposed amendments may also be viewed on the OWRB web site at http://www.owrb.ok.gov.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:
Pursuant to 75 O.S., § 303(D), a Rule Impact Statement is available for review at the OWRB's office, 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Rule Impact Statement may also be viewed on the OWRB web site at http://www.owrb.ok.gov.

CONTACT PERSON:
Kate Burum, Assistant General Counsel and Funds Manager, 405-530-8800 or Kate.Burum@owrb.ok.gov.