

Development of Wetland Water Quality Standards

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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Recap Previous Meetings



Draft Materials

- Definition
- Introduced beneficial uses & criteria
- Beneficial use & criteria open discussion
- Anti-degradation Policy
- Implementation provisions
- Implementation Q & A

Aug. 28th
Meeting

Sept. 15th
Meeting

Today

Beneficial Use - Open Discussion

Currently in the Standards

- ❖ Aesthetics
- ❖ Recreation

Potential Additions to the Standards

- ❖ Wetland Habitat & Biota
- ❖ Water Quality Enhancement
- ❖ Flood Protection & Erosion Control

Criteria - Open Discussion

Currently in the Standards

- ❖ Floating & submerged debris
- ❖ Temperature
- ❖ Toxicity
- ❖ Toxics
- ❖ Sediment
- ❖ Bacteria
- ❖ Aesthetics

Potential Additions to the Standards

- ❖ Ecological integrity
- ❖ Hydrologic integrity
- ❖ Narrative DO and pH

Antidegradation Policy

SUBCHAPTER 3. ANTIDegradation REQUIREMENTS

Section

785:45-3-1. Purpose of antidegradation policy statement

785:45-3-2. Applications of antidegradation policy

785:45-3-1. Purpose; antidegradation policy statement

- (a) Waters of the state constitute a valuable resource and shall be protected, maintained and improved for the benefit of all the citizens.
- (b) It is the policy of the State of Oklahoma to protect all waters of the state from degradation of water quality, as provided in OAC 785:45-3-2 and Subchapter 13 of OAC 785:46.

Antidegradation Policy

785:45-3-2. Applications of antidegradation policy

- (a) **Application to outstanding resource waters (ORW).** Certain waters of the state constitute an outstanding resource or have exceptional recreational and/or ecological significance. These waters include streams designated "Scenic River" or "ORW" in Appendix A of this Chapter, and waters of the State located within watersheds of Scenic Rivers. Additionally, these may include waters located within National and State parks, forests, wilderness areas, wildlife management areas, and wildlife refuges, and waters which contain species listed pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act as described in 785:45-5-25(c)(2)(A) and 785:46-13-6(c). No degradation of water quality shall be allowed in these waters.

Antidegradation Policy

- (b) **Application to high quality waters (HQW).** It is recognized that certain waters of the state possess existing water quality which exceeds those levels necessary to support propagation of fishes, shellfishes, wildlife, and recreation in and on the water. These high quality waters shall be maintained and protected.
- (c) **Application to Sensitive Public and Private Water Supplies (SWS).** It is recognized that certain public and private water supplies possess conditions that make them more susceptible to pollution events and require additional protection. These sensitive water supplies shall be maintained and protected.
- (d) **Application to beneficial uses.** No water quality degradation which will interfere with the attainment or maintenance of an existing or designated beneficial use shall be allowed.
- (e) **Application to improved waters.** As the quality of any waters of the state improve, no degradation of such improved waters shall be allowed.

Implementation Provisions

- Constructed treatment wetlands

Constructed treatment wetlands are limited to facilities located in areas that did not historically support wetlands or other aquatic resources. A constructed treatment wetland is part of a treatment train or treatment system for wastewater and water quality standards do not apply to wastewater contained within the treatment wetland. However, any discharges from a constructed treatment wetland shall meet applicable standards for the downstream receiving waterbody. A treatment wetland shall not be constructed within a water of the state.

Implementation Provisions

□ Commercial and Noncommercial Pits

Constructed commercial and noncommercial pits or any other pit used for the handling, storage, or disposal of sediment, soils, drilling fluids, water other fluids, debris, brine, and or other substances produced, obtained, or used in connection with drilling and or operation of a well(s) are defined and regulated by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

A commercial, noncommercial, or any other pit shall not be constructed within a water of the state.

Implementation Provisions

- Normal Farming Activities

Consistent with Clean Water Act Section 404 (f) and 40 CFR 232.3, discharges associated with normal farming activities are not subject to water quality standards.

- Prior converted cropland

Consistent with Oklahoma statute (Title 27A §1-1-201) prior converted croplands are not subject to water quality standards.

Implementation Provisions

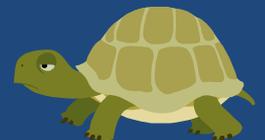
- Mixing Zones
 - ▣ Considering case by base basis
 - ▣ Robust provisions will guide mixing zone evaluations

Implementation Q & A



Next Steps

- Standards revision informal meeting
 - October 28th
 - Open discussion on all draft wetland standards materials



Contact Information



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