

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

RULES

Effective July 1, 1998

INTRODUCTION

This is an unofficial version of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board rules. The official version of the rules are contained in the Oklahoma Administrative Code, maintained by the Secretary of State Office of Administrative Rules, located at 2401 North Lincoln Boulevard, Room 220 , Will Rogers Building, P.O. Box 53390, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3390, (405) 521-4911.

The numbering system and organization of the rules are designed to meet the requirements of the Oklahoma Administrative Code. Individual rules are referenced as "sections". The numbering system includes **Title** number, and following a semicolon, the **Chapter**, **Subchapter** and **Section** numbers. An example is 785:20-3-7. The number "785" is the Title number designated in the Oklahoma Administrative Code for all rules of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. After the semicolon, the number "20" is the number of the Chapter relating to stream water use and appropriation. The number "3" refers to Subchapter 3 in Chapter 20, which is the subchapter on Application Requirements and Processing. Odd numbers are used for subchapter designations to allow for new subchapters to be added in the future. The last number "7" in the example is the Section number.

This introduction is not part of the text of the rules, but is provided for convenience only.

If the reader has any questions, suggestions or comments about the rules or this unofficial format, please contact Dean Couch at (405) 530-8800. The address for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is 3800 North Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118. The Board's facsimile number is (405) 530-8900.

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

BACKGROUND AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is an executive branch administrative agency created by Oklahoma Statutes, Title 82, Section 1085.1 and following. The agency was created in 1957 to take over the functions of the predecessor Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, including that Board's Division of Water Resources.

Ongoing functions of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board described in the following rules include administration of stream water and groundwater rights and permit system, dam safety, well driller licensing, weather modification licensing and permits, water and sewer project financial assistance for public entities, floodplain management and promulgation of Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards and Implementation Documents.

There are several other important functions related to state water resources carried out by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board which are not embodied in the rules that follow. Two of these functions, described in other laws, documents and reports include (references are to Oklahoma Statutes):

1. Interstate compacts - The State of Oklahoma is a party to four interstate compacts, or agreements, with other states to apportion waters between the states:

- a. Canadian River Compact with Texas and New Mexico (82 O.S. 1991, §526.1)
- b. Kansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact (82 O.S. 1991, §1401)
- c. Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact (82 O.S. 1991, §1421)
- d. Red River Compact with Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas (82 O.S.1991, §1431).

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board provides staffing for the Oklahoma Commissioners on these compacts whose Commissions meet at least annually.

2. Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan - Oklahoma statutes provide express policy on the use of surplus and excess water, and require that a state water plan be developed. 82 O.S. 1991, §1086.1 and following. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board prepared the first Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan in 1980. An update of the plan was completed in February 1997. The Board is authorized and directed to engage in a continuing study of the water laws of the state and to make recommended changes in order to carry out to the greatest practical extent the policies, goals, objectives and recommendations of the Comprehensive Water Plan (82 O.S. 1991, §1085.14).

3. Clean Lakes - The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is the technical lead agency for the federal Clean Lakes program. 27A O.S. Supp. 1996, §1-3-101(C). The Board coordinates efforts and funding from federal, state and municipal sources to conduct studies of lakes in order to provide information for better decision making for those responsible for protecting various uses of lakes.