Introduction to
Water Quality Standards
in Oklahoma

Water Quality Division

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Role of Water Quality Standards

Water Quality Standards

NPS Program
- OCC & ODAFF

OPDES Permits
- ODEQ

AgPDES Permits
- ODAFF

Site Clean up & Superfund
- ODEQ, EPA, Corp Com

Water Supply
- ODEQ, EPA

Recreation
- ODWC, US Fish & Wildlife
- USACE

Other

Other agencies and organizations involved in water quality standards include:

- ODEQ
- EPA
- Corp Com
- USACE
- ODWC, US Fish & Wildlife
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION
**The Descriptor**

*Public & Private Water Supply* – water supplies protected & maintained so that the water can be used as sources of public raw water supply.

**The Real Thing**
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Beneficial Uses

✓ Beneficial uses characterize the resource qualities, services, & ultimate goal for a waterbody.

The Descriptor

Primary Body Contact Recreation – involves direct body contact with water where a possibility of ingestion exists.

The Real Thing
## Water Quality Standards

### The Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td>1.03 ug/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Community</td>
<td>shall not exhibit degraded conditions compared to measures of a healthy biological community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Real Thing

- Cadmium: 1.03 ug/L
- Biological Community: Shall not exhibit degraded conditions compared to measures of a healthy biological community

### Criteria

- Criteria protect beneficial uses by setting limits on pollutants or describing waterbody condition.
- Criteria can be expressed as acceptable numeric levels or narrative statements.

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The image contains a table with criteria for water quality standards, including a description of the criteria for Cadmium and Biological Community. Additionally, there is a photo of a fish being measured, symbolizing the real-world application of these standards. The image also includes two text boxes: one detailing the criteria and another explaining their application.
Water Quality Standards

Antidegradation Policy

- Antidegradation Policy specifies the framework used in making decisions regarding the intentional lowering of water quality.

- Ensures good water quality is conserved where possible and lowered only when necessary & includes the public in the process.
**Beneficial Use Monitoring Program – BUMP** – statewide monitoring program, provides data to assess waterbody condition and support informed management decisions.
**WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

**The Program**

*ODEQ Wastewater permitting* – discharge permits for industries & municipalities that discharge treated wastewater

**Implementation**
MORE IMPLEMENTATION

- Municipal Stormwater permits
- WQ Assessment reports
- 401 WQ Certifications
- Site clean up
- NPS monitoring & BMP programs
- AgPDES
  - CAFO
  - Pesticide
- Construction stormwater
Water Quality Standards Authority

- Federal Clean Water Act & OK state laws provide legal foundation & empower states to address water quality protection.

- Water Quality Standards for both surface water & groundwater are the rules & regulation adopted by the state directing water quality protection.

1972 Clean Water Act
STANDARDS WORK

- Review the Latest Science and Policy
- Stakeholder Involvement through Workgroups & Stakeholder Meetings
- Fact Sheets & Technical Reports
- Open Door Policy
- Rule Promulgation
Standards Planning Process

STEP 1
Review Standards & Identify Issues

STEP 2
Prioritize Issues to be Addressed

STEP 3
Develop & Adopt Individual Amendments
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Current Project

- Update Selenium Criterion
- Protects aquatic life beneficial use
- Essential nutrient but toxic in excess amounts
- One criterion expressed as both a water column and a fish tissue number
Current Project

- Update Human Health Criteria
- Protects water supply & fish consumption beneficial uses
- It has been 27 years since OK conducted a comprehensive HHC update
- Will set limits on toxic chemicals known to have human health risk
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SERVING THE PUBLIC & WATER RESOURCES

Core Values

- Collaboration & Cooperation
- Proactive Implementation
- Science and Rules are not Static
- Understanding Statewide Priorities
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QUESTIONS