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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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***Water Board to Host Illinois River Tour,
Monthly Meeting in Tahlequah***

In conjunction with its regular monthly meeting in Tahlequah, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board will conduct an educational tour of the Illinois River Basin on Monday, August 12.

According to OWRB Executive Director Duane A. Smith, the purpose of the tour is to demonstrate, especially to stakeholders and other interested parties, how the OWRB recently developed its 0.037 phosphorous limit and subsequent rule for state-designated Scenic Rivers.

"The tour will feature detailed water quality sampling demonstrations by Board staff at sites along the Barren Fork River, Flint Creek, and Illinois River. I believe all who attend will be treated to a very interesting and educational afternoon as well as witness first-hand staff's expertise in gathering critically important water quality data," Smith pointed out. The Board directs the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), Oklahoma's comprehensive water quality monitoring effort which assembles detailed physical, chemical, and biological information from 246 lakes and streams collected at approximately 600 sites throughout the state.

The tour, co-sponsored by the OWRB and Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, will also include visits to a poultry operation, canoe rental facility, and private ranch which implements measures and practices to reduce its contribution of nonpoint pollution sources in the Illinois River watershed.

The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the office of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, 15971 N. Highway 10 (2 miles north of Tahlequah), and conclude at 6:30 p.m. Members of the press are invited to attend and should call Brian Vance at 405-530-8800 for more information.

The Board's regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, 600 Grand. The meeting convenes at 9:30 a.m. in the Redbud Room and the public is welcome to attend. A forum will be provided for public comment on the phosphorus rule and/or other important water quality/quantity issues.

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