

November 25, 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:

Derek Smithee, Chief  
Water Quality Division  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
(405) 530-8800

***Water Board Schedules Instructional Seminar  
For Grand Lake Water Quality Monitors December 5-6***

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board will hold a special two-day quality control assessment session for Grand Lake Association (GLA) water quality monitors on December 5-6. The training will be held at the GLA Building in Grove, 9630 U.S. Highway 59 North.

According to Derek Smithee, Chief of the OWRB's Water Quality Division, the training session, entitled "Quality Control Assessment *Plus!*," focuses on the proper handling of monitoring equipment, data collection, and analysis techniques which, in turn, improves the quality and usability of data collected through the Water Board's Oklahoma Water Watch (OWW) volunteer water quality monitoring program.

"The quality of data gathered through Water Watch is our top priority," Smithee emphasized. "This session is an excellent opportunity for OWW staff and the volunteers to come together in a continuing effort to improve data collection activities and to further basic water quality education," he said.

The GLA sponsors one of the state's strongest and most active volunteer water quality monitoring groups, a subsidiary organization of the OWRB's Oklahoma Water Watch (OWW) program. OWW was created in 1992 as a semi-independent, community-based volunteer water monitoring program. Currently, more than 200 trained Water Watch volunteers throughout Oklahoma routinely collect water quality information, conduct specific water quality tests, and record resulting data for more than 100 sites in the state.

The Friday, December 5 training session will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. The session's concluding day—Saturday, December 6—runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on Oklahoma Water Watch or this training session, contact the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 or the GLA at (918) 786-2289.

###