OKLAHOMA LAW ON GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION

Maximum Annual Yield,
Equal Proportionate Share
& Senate Bill 288

OWRB EXHIBIT 7

1973
Oklahoma Groundwater Law

- Allocation system tied to land ownership (acres)
- Replaced appropriation first-in-time priority system
- Owners of land overlying same common basin are similarly situated
- Hydrologic surveys and investigations for each "groundwater basin"
- Determine MAY, then issue "regular" permits to allocate Equal Proportionate Share of MAY

Process for Determining MAY

1) Hydrologic survey and investigation
   - Completing 5-year study for Arbuckle-Simpson
   - Informal meeting today to summarize results
2) OWRB makes tentative determination of MAY
3) Call and hold hearing at centrally located place
4) Evidence in support or opposition to tentative MAY
5) Final determination of MAY

Determining Tentative MAY - typical elements

- Total land area overlying basin (acres)
- Amount of water in storage (acre-feet)
- Rate of recharge *to* basin and total discharge *from* basin
- Transmissibility (transmissivity)
- Possibility of pollution of basin from natural sources (deep brine water not included)
- *Minimum* basin life of 20 years

Senate Bill 288 – added element for MAY

- "Sensitive sole source groundwater basin"
- Moratorium against out-of-basin use until OWRB approves MAY to ensure any permit *"will not reduce the natural flow of water"* from basin area springs or streams
- Narrower permit focus of SB 288 to protect SSSGWB springs and streams – *not likely to degrade or interfere* with springs or streams