Arbuckle/Simpson Surface Water Workgroup -

Thanks to each of you for coming to OKC and meeting October 6th to discuss OSU's IFIM work and The Nature Conservancy's IHA work related to the Arbuckle/Simpson Study. If any of you feel you have not adequately reviewed either of these two reports, please get back with me before November 26 with your comments. Significantly, the group reviewed the IFIM and IHA Reports, and discussed criteria for establishing minimum stream flow thresholds for managing the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. From a technical perspective, it was generally agreed that no substantial impact would occur if the 75% exceedance of total flow were reduced between 10 and 25%, and we have forwarded this to Scott Christenson to input into his groundwater model.

During this meeting there was also some excellent discussion about establishing an adaptive management spring, stream and groundwater monitoring program to assure that these resources react as expected post implementation. There was also some discussion about possibly establishing buffer zones or special protection areas. I have forwarded these ideas to the project management team for consideration as the final report recommendation nears completion.

As this project continues on, we will likely need to meet again, and you will be receiving notification of that meeting. I'm especially interested in visiting with all of you as we work to develop a post-implementation monitoring program consitent with time, needs and available resources.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Derek

Derek R. Smithee, Chief
Water Quality Programs Division
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 530-8800