



E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

Dear Oklahomans and others with water rights to protect:

You recently received from our office several court filings, including a notice of a hearing before the Oklahoma Supreme Court, relating to whether the Court should assume jurisdiction over adjudications of the Kiamichi, Muddy Boggy, and Clear Boggy stream systems.

In the cover letter accompanying that notice, we told you that the only issue the Oklahoma Supreme Court was being asked to decide was whether it should preside over the case. In this packet, you will find an order entered by the Court on February 23, 2012, in which the Court assumed jurisdiction over the case.

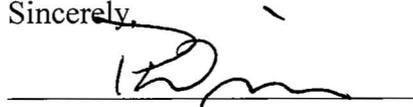
You may be wondering why the Court did this without waiting for responses and without holding a hearing. The short answer is that the Court has the discretion to assume original jurisdiction over virtually any case that it believes to be of great public importance. It is well within the Court's power to make that determination on its own accord, and that is what it did here.

As you will see in the Court's order, the Court has given the Oklahoma Water Resources Board 20 days to file a brief with the Court. We will mail you a copy of that brief as soon as it is filed. If, after reading the OWRB's brief, you wish to file a brief in response to the OWRB's brief, you will have 20 days from the date on which the OWRB filed its brief in which to do so.

The Court has kept the April 19, 2012 hearing date. The issue to be decided at that hearing is no longer the question of in which court the case should proceed, as the Court has already answered that question. The matters that the OWRB will now be asking the Court to consider at that hearing include how the Court should proceed with the general stream adjudication in a way that ensures protection of existing rights and addresses all rights to water in an expeditious manner that complies with all applicable law. The OWRB will propose the Court proceed with the adjudication in the least burdensome and most understandable way possible for all affected parties.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call me at (405) 521-3921. Additionally, you can access <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/legal.php> for up-to-date information on the adjudication process.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick R. Wyrick, Solicitor General  
Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General