

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 730. OKLAHOMA'S WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Notice of proposed PERMANENT rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

252:730-1-2. Definitions [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3. Antidegradation Requirements

252:730-3-2. Applications of antidegradation policy [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. Surface Water Quality Standards

Part 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

252:730-5-2. Beneficial uses: existing and designated [AMENDED]

252:730-5-4. Applicability of narrative and numerical criteria [AMENDED]

Part 3. BENEFICIAL USES AND CRITERIA TO PROTECT USES

252:730-5-9. General narrative criteria [AMENDED]

252:730-5-10. Public and private water supplies [AMENDED]

252:730-5-12. Fish and wildlife propagation [AMENDED]

252:730-5-13. Agriculture [AMENDED]

252:730-5-16. Primary Body Contact Recreation [AMENDED]

252:730-5-17. Secondary Body Contact Recreation [AMENDED]

Part 5. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

252:730-5-25. Implementation policies for the antidegradation policy statement
[AMENDED]

252:730-5-26. Mixing zones and zones of passage [AMENDED]

Subchapter 7. Groundwater Quality Standards

252:730-7-3. Groundwater classifications, beneficial uses and vulnerability levels
[AMENDED]

252:730-7-4. Criteria for groundwater quality protection [AMENDED]

Appendix A. Designated Beneficial Uses of Surface Waters [AMENDED]

Appendix E. Requirements for Development of Site Specific Criteria for Certain Parameters
[AMENDED]

Appendix F. Statistical Values of the Historical Data for Mineral Constituents of Water
Quality (Beginning October 1976 Ending September 1983, Except as Indicated)
[AMENDED]

Appendix G. Numerical Criteria to Protect Beneficial Uses [AMENDED]

Appendix H. Beneficial Use Designations for Certain Limited Areas of Groundwater
[AMENDED]

SUMMARY:

The gist of this rule and the underlying reason for the rulemaking is to comply with the Water Quality Standards Triennial Review and includes the following updates: add, remove and/or modify certain definitions; update Primary Body Contact Recreation by replacing confidence intervals with geometric mean and statistical threshold values, applicable to both E. coli and Enterococci; updating Secondary Body Contact Recreation to add numeric criteria for E. coli and enterococci based on EPA's water ingestion formula; adding language allowing the use of the copper biotic ligand model for development of copper site-specific criteria; adding language allowing for the potential use of multiple regression model for the creation of copper site-specific

criteria; requiring the use of a fish tissue study for selenium site-specific criteria; removal of site-specific metals criteria that were not approved by EPA; removal of segment averages that were not approved by EPA; recalculation of certain criteria and the addition of Aquatic Life and Human Health criteria values based on EPA's recommended values; and, including an updated version of Appendix H that was missing in the most recent version of Chapter 730.

AUTHORITY:

Environmental Quality Board; 27A O.S. § 2-2-101.

Oklahoma Water Quality Standards; 27A O.S. §§ 2-6-103.2 and 2-6-103.3.

COMMENT PERIOD:

Written comments may be submitted to the contact person from September 1, 2026, through October 19, 2026. Oral comments may be made at the Formal Rulemaking Meeting on October 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the DEQ Headquarters, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, or at the Environmental Quality Board Meeting on November 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM at the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center, 919 Kerr Research Dr, Ada, OK. 74820.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The proposed rules will be discussed at a Formal Rulemaking Meeting scheduled on October 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the DEQ Headquarters, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. The proposed rules will also be considered by the Environmental Quality Board at its scheduled meeting on November 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM at the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center, 919 Kerr Research Dr, Ada, OK 74820.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:

DEQ requests that business entities or any other members of the public affected by these rules provide to DEQ (during the comment period) the increase (in dollar amounts if possible) in the level of direct costs (e.g., fees) and indirect costs (e.g., reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss), or other costs expected to be incurred due to compliance with the proposed rules.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:

Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained from the contact person, reviewed at the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during normal business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday) or reviewed online at <https://oklahoma.gov/deq/rules-and-regulations/proposed-rules-regulations.html>.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Copies of the rule impact statement may be obtained from the contact person or may be reviewed online at <https://oklahoma.gov/deq/rules-and-regulations/proposed-rules-regulations.html>

CONTACT PERSON:

Nicole Newcomer, Water Quality Division, 707 N. Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677, email nicole.newcomer@deq.ok.gov, phone (405) 702-8290, or fax (405) 702-8101.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Persons with disabilities who desire to attend the rulemaking hearing and need an accommodation should notify the contact person three (3) days in advance of the hearing. For hearing impaired, the TDD relay number is 1-800-522-8506 or 1-800-722-0353, for TDD machine use only.