



# Public Solicitation for Water Quality Information for the *Water Quality in Oklahoma 2024 Integrated Report*

August 1, 2023

## **HOW TO PROVIDE WATER QUALITY DATA AND INFORMATION**

DEQ invites you to provide water quality information to be considered in Oklahoma's *2024 Integrated Report*. **Data and information must be received by DEQ either in writing or email by 4:30 p.m. on September 1, 2023 to be considered for inclusion in the report.** A summary of DEQ's decisions regarding the water quality information that was submitted will be included in the final *2024 Integrated Report* submitted to U.S. EPA Region 6.

Submit your water quality information to:

**Nicole Newcomer**  
**Water Quality Division**  
**Department of Environmental Quality**  
**P.O. Box 1677**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677**  
[Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov)

## **BACKGROUND**

Oklahoma DEQ is in the process of developing Oklahoma's *2024 Integrated Report*. The Integrated Report combines the reporting requirements under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 305(b) - *Surface Water Quality Assessment*, and the reporting requirements under CWA Section 303(d) - *List of Impaired Waters*.

The [Integrated Report](#) is a biennial assessment of all Oklahoma waterbodies. The methods used to develop the Integrated Report are described in the [Continuing Planning Process](#) (CPP) document. One goal of the CPP is to provide an objective and scientifically sound waterbody assessment listing methodology. The CWA requires states to develop [Water Quality Standards](#) (WQS) and have designated beneficial uses assigned to all waterbodies. Beneficial uses are types of activities and resources provided by a waterbody, including but not limited to fishing, swimming, recreation, irrigation, and drinking water.

The waterbodies that do not meet minimum WQS are considered "impaired" and are listed as such on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. DEQ develops restoration plans - known as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports - with goals and pollution control targets for improving water quality in impaired waterbodies so that the waterbodies can achieve their WQS beneficial uses. The 303(d) list is also used to establish priorities for TMDL development.

Federal regulations governing the 303(d) listing process and TMDL development are found in 40 CFR Part 130. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides Integrated Reporting guidance to assist states in developing the Integrated Report.

## **WATER QUALITY DATA REQUIREMENTS**

This solicitation notice serves as a means of gaining information about water quality from the public. Once the information is reviewed, then a draft of the Integrated Report is submitted for public review which includes a 30-day comment period. Near the end of the public comment period, there will be a public meeting to go over the draft Report and answer any questions about the Report.

EPA regulations (40 CFR 130.7) require that “all existing and readily available water quality related data and information” must be evaluated in developing the 303(d) list. A complete list of criteria and information necessary for consideration is found in the *Integrated Water Quality Report Listing Methodology* section of the current CPP.

In general, water quality data must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- ◆ The data cannot be more than 5 years old for rivers (10 years for lakes) for parameters associated with designated uses.
- ◆ Only data collected before **April 30, 2023** will be used in use attainment determinations.
- ◆ Impairments must be due to specific pollutants for which TMDLs can be developed. The specific cause of the impairment must be noted in the submittal, if known.

All submittals must include the following information:

✓ ***Waterbody Identification***

Oklahoma uses a 14-digit waterbody identification (WBID) system. If you do not know the appropriate WBID number for a specific segment, provide latitude and longitude coordinates for the segment of concern. In addition, please provide the common name for the waterbody as indicated on a United States Geological Survey topographical map.

✓ ***Justification for Listing Decision***

All decisions about a waterbody’s listing in the Integrated Report are based on ample data and documentation to prove whether or not that waterbody meets WQS. As a result, your submittal should include a summary of the data used to support the decision, the complete data set (or reference to the complete data set if it is contained in a published report), and an analysis showing a violation of WQS or proof the waterbody is no longer impaired. Oklahoma’s WQS (Title 252, Chapter 730), Use Support Assessment Protocols (Subchapter 15, Title 252, Chapter 740), and the procedures in the CPP should be consulted and utilized in your justification and analysis.

✓ ***QA/QC Procedures Used***

Data submitted should include information on sampling and analyses, including Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures used. DEQ will evaluate the QA/QC protocols used in gathering and analyzing the samples to decide if and how that data will be used. To be used, data must use QA/QC methods that are in accordance with [“EPA Requirements for QA Project Plans”](#) (QA/R5, March 2001).

## **RESOURCES**

Oklahoma’s ***Continuing Planning Process, 303(d) list, and Integrated Report*** are available at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/watershed-planning/integrated-report/>

***Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards (252:730)*** and ***Implementation of Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards (252:740)*** are available at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/730.pdf> and <https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/740.pdf>

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