

PUBLIC NOTICE

July 14, 2026

The [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) has received an application for a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) pertaining to proposed activities in the Verdigris River in Rogers County. The activities require the U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. Under [Section 401 of CWA](#), the State is required to review any Federal permit regarding activities in Waters of the United States (WOTUS). The purpose of the Certification review, according to DEQ regulations [[Title 252, Chapter 611-3-1\(a\)](#)], is to determine whether the proposed discharge(s) will comply with the [Oklahoma Water Quality Standards](#) (WQS), and Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA.

This Public Notice opens on July 14, 2026, and will close on August 13, 2026.

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority submitted an application for the replacement of Will Rogers Turnpike (WRT) bridge over the Verdigris River. The proposed project is for the replacement of the two existing bridges over the Verdigris River with a new single bridge on the existing alignment. Impacts to WOTUS will be limited to 641 cubic yards of total fill for two piers (four drilled shafts) placed within the Verdigris River Ordinary High Water Mark. If use of temporary work roads and/or barges in the river channel for demolition and/or construction will be selected, all work roads and barges will be limited to the area between the shoreline and the existing pier protection cells. Temporary work roads, if needed, will be constructed of salvageable nonerodable aggregate material and will be removed upon completion of the construction. Drilled shafts within the Verdigris River will likely be constructed using a single permanent steel casing sealed against the bedrock and pumped free of water before placing concrete. This casing will confine and prevent concrete from leaking into the water. All pier construction above the drilled shafts will likely be formed concrete, to confine the concrete within the forms. Both existing bridges, including two existing piers and existing pier protection cells, will be removed to at least 15 feet below the navigational pool elevation. All existing materials to be removed will be directly pulled from the channel or removed after demolition. Removal of the substructure can be accomplished without allowing material to enter the channel or the stream banks. Falsework will be installed to catch and contain the removed material at the level of superstructure well above the channel. The banks will be restored to the pre-construction conditions after removal of the temporary work roads. The project is located on the Verdigris River in Section 22, Township 20 North, Range 15 East, in Rogers County, Oklahoma.

DEQ is soliciting comments concerning the water quality impacts of the project. The comments received will be considered by DEQ in issuing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Please submit your comments in writing by the end of the workday on August 13, 2026, to:

Elena Jigoulina
Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-8200
Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov



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