

Steve Thompson
Executive Director



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Frank Keating
Governor

PRESS RELEASE

September 10, 2002

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING

PROPOSED DRAFT TMDL AND MODIFICATION

TO OKLAHOMA'S WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE CITY OF PICHER

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

This is to give notice that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) has identified the need to suggest a revision in the State's Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). Based on information received since the last annual update of the WQMP, it is the Department's opinion that this revision is necessary and justified.

The City of Picher requested from the Department an evaluation of their waste load allocation that would discharge into Tar Creek. Upon review with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department has evaluated the effluent limits and has recommended the proposed waste load allocation (WLA) as: summer (Jun-Oct) 8 mg/l CBOD₅, 15 mg/l TSS, 2 mg/l NH₃N, and 5 mg/l DO; spring (Apr-May) 12 mg/l CBOD₅, 15 mg/l TSS, 4 mg/l NH₃N, and 5 mg/l DO; winter (Nov-Mar) secondary (20 mg/l BOD₅, 20 mg/l TSS) and 5 mg/l DO corresponding to a design flow of 0.18 million gallons per day (MGD).

The WLA was determined by performing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL process provides a reasonable, technically sound, consistent procedure for implementing water quality standards and allows treated wastewater discharge without adverse impact to waters of the state. The above facility changes were a result of the TMDL and were favorably reviewed by EPA.

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The proposed modifications to the Oklahoma WQMP are as follows:

FACILITY: PICHER CITY/TOWN: PICHER
LEGAL: R23E T29N S21 NW/SW/SE COUNTY: OTTAWA
POD: ~~R23E T29N S21 NW/SW/SE~~ SEGMENT: 121600
R23E T29N S29
NPDES # OK0032263 PRIORITY RANKING LIST: YES
CURRENT TREATMENT PROCESS:
LAGOON
PRESENT AVG. DAILY FLOW (MGD): 0.218 PRESENT POPULATION: 2180
DESIGN AVG. DAILY FLOW (MGD): 0.18 YEAR 2020 POPULATION: 1750
RECEIVING STREAM: ~~UNTRIB, LITTLE CR~~ STREAM CLASS: I
TAR CREEK
7 DAY 2 YEAR LOW FLOW (MGD): 0 WATER QUALITY RANKING: 1152
DMA: CITY OF PICHER / PICHER PWA DMA STATUS: APPROVED
WASTELOAD ALLOCATION: SECONDARY
Jun-Oct: 8 mg/l CBOD₅, 15 mg/l TSS, 2 mg/l NH₃N, 5 mg/l DO
Apr-May: 12 mg/l CBOD₅, 15 mg/l TSS, 4 mg/l NH₃N, 5 mg/l DO
Nov-Mar: secondary (20 mg/l BOD₅, 20 mg/l TSS) and 5 mg/l DO

STRATEGY:
RECOMMENDED TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES
A) NEW TREATMENT FACILITY
B) UPGRADE
C) LAND APPLICATION

PREVIOUS EPA APPROVAL DATE: 7/23/1986
RECORD LAST UPDATE: PENDING

Direct written comments or request for information regarding this proposed modification to:

Jeff Howard
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-8100

The comment period extends for 45 days from the date of this notice. During the comment period, any interested persons may file written comments stating their issues and may request a public meeting. If a significant degree of public interest is determined, the Department will schedule a public meeting in the area of concern. After evaluating comments received and making any necessary changes, the modification will be submitted to EPA for final approval.

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