

PUBLIC NOTICE

October 20, 2025

The [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) has received an application for a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) pertaining to proposed activities in the Illinois River in Adair County. The activities require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the CWA (Section 404 Permit). Under [Section 401 of CWA](#), the State is required to review any Federal permit regarding activities in Waters of the United States. 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 October 20, 2025, and will close on November 19, 2025.

Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) submitted an application for repair and improvement of an existing whitewater course function at the WOKA Whitewater Park (Park) in Adair County. The repair work is covered under Section 404 Permit, Nationwide Permit 3 (NWP3), Maintenance. WQS designates the Illinois River as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW). In WQC issued for 2021 Nationwide Permits on December 18, 2020, DEQ required individual certifications for NWP3 for projects in ORWs.

Construction activities include installing bulkhead gates at the entrance features to the Park, shutting off the flow of water into the course, and diverting flow to the adjacent Lake Frances Dam. Once the flow of water into the whitewater park has been shut off, the pools at the proposed fill areas will be dewatered to allow for a placement of approximately 53 cubic yards of sculpted concrete fill in dry conditions. The bulkhead gates will remain in place for two weeks to allow for installation and curing of the proposed concrete fill. After this two-week period, the bulkhead gates will be removed, and the whitewater park will return to normal operations.

The project is located in Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 26 East, I.M, in Adair 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 November 19, 2025, 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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