

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 627. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER REUSE
SYSTEMS**

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

A. Statement of need for the rule change and legal basis supporting it.

The gist of this rule and the underlying reason for the rulemaking is to allow for the annual adjustment of fees based on the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”). This will ensure consistency among DEQ’s rules that require annual fees.

B. Classification of rule change (major/non-major), justification for that classification, and business cost estimate over the first five (5) years.

This rulemaking is non-major. There is no anticipated increase in business costs over the first five years, other than the portion of the rulemaking related to fees. Fees that will be adjusted based upon the CPI are not likely to change substantially, such that the business cost will not exceed the threshold of \$1,000,000.00 over the initial five-year period following the promulgation, as defined in 75 O.S. § 303(D)(3)(b).

C. Description of the purpose of the proposed rule change, whether the change is mandated by federal law or is required to participate in or implement a federal program, and whether the change exceeds the requirements of the federal law.

The proposed changes are not required by federal law and do not exceed the requirements of federal law. The proposed rule allows for the annual adjustment of fees based on the CPI.

D. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule(s), including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule(s), and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.

Classes of persons affected are those who construct, own, operate, plan to operate, and/or maintain water reuse systems. This will also affect customers of those systems, including incarcerated persons.

E. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule(s).

Classes of persons benefited are those who construct, own, operate, plan to operate, and/or maintain water reuse systems. This will also benefit customers of those systems, including incarcerated persons.

F. Comprehensive analysis of the rule change’s economic impact, including impacts to the full-time-employee count of the agency, costs or benefits, a quantification of

implementation and compliance costs on the affected businesses, business sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, state or local governments, and on the state as a whole, with a listing of all fee changes and justification for each fee change.

DEQ expects no new significant economic impact on the affected classes of persons (including businesses, business sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, state or local governments, and the state as a whole) from this rulemaking other than any adjustment in fees based on the CPI. DEQ does not anticipate that this rulemaking will increase the full-time employee count.

G. Detailed explanation of methodology and assumptions used to determine the economic impact, including dollar amounts calculated.

DEQ's methodology in determining the conclusion above is premised on the potential increase in fees based on an adjustment in the CPI.

H. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule(s).

The only economic impact on political subdivisions would be from the potential increase in fees based on an adjustment in the CPI.

I. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) may have an adverse economic effect on small businesses as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

DEQ has not identified any foreseeable adverse effect on small businesses (defined in 75 O.S. § 502), except for a small business that might be required to pay a fee that increases based on an adjustment to the CPI.

J. Any measures taken by the agency to minimize cost and impact of the proposed rule change on business and economic development in the state, local governmental units, and for individuals.

There are no additional compliance costs expected due to this rule, and thus, no additional measures were taken by DEQ.

K. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule(s) on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule(s) is/are designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk.

The proposed changes will generally have a positive effect on public health, safety, and the environment by allowing for the adjustment of fees based on the CPI.

L. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety, and environment if the proposed rule(s) is/are not implemented.

There will be no detrimental effect on public health, safety, and the environment if the proposed rule is not implemented.

M. Analysis of alternatives to adopting the rule.

The alternative to adopting the proposed rule changes is not to adopt the rule changes.

N. Estimates of the amount of time that would be spent by state employees to develop the rule and of the amount of other resources that would be utilized to develop the rule.

DEQ staff estimates no more than 10 hours of professional time for rule development, including but not limited to rule drafting, legal review, informal public meetings, formally presenting rule changes to the Water Quality Management Advisory Council, managing public comment periods, and filing the final rule.

O. Summary and preliminary comparison of any existing or proposed federal regulations that are intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule.

The proposed change allows DEQ to increase fees based on an adjustment of the CPI, which will make it uniform with other DEQ rules. However, the rulemaking does not directly implicate federal regulations.

**P. This rule impact statement was prepared on: October 30, 2025
Modified on:**