

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 656. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION
STANDARDS**

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 the electronic submittal of plans and specifications and engineering reports; update references to the 5th edition of Metcalf & Eddy's textbook titled "Wastewater Engineering Treatment and Resource Recovery"; allow for approval of designs of grit chambers with an engineering justification; update citations to other rules; clarify that a return sludge piping must provide a minimum four (4) inch discharge piping; and provide that for Category 6 reclaimed water that does not require a permit to supply, the reclaimed water must be drawn from the effluent of the final treatment process unit, with the intake located within or immediately downstream of the disinfection unit where disinfection is provided, shall only be used within the wastewater treatment plan

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, 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.

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 net 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 municipal or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, and that must obtain permits to treat, dispose, and reuse municipal and industrial wastewater. This will also affect customers of those systems, incarcerated persons, and any other persons who recreate in Oklahoma's waters.

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

Classes of persons benefitted are those who construct, own, operate, plan to operate, and/or maintain municipal or industrial wastewater treatment facilities and that must obtain permits to treat, dispose, and reuse municipal and industrial wastewater. This will also affect customers of those systems, incarcerated persons, and any other persons who recreate in Oklahoma's waters.

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. 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 is that the proposed changes include clarifications of existing rules and explicitly allow for electronic submissions to DEQ, making the submittal process faster and less costly.

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).

DEQ anticipates no economic impact on political subdivisions. No cooperation from political subdivisions is required to implement or enforce the rule.

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 anticipates no adverse economic impact on small businesses.

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 clarifying the existing rules and allowing for electronic submittal of plans and specifications and engineering reports.

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 more than 50 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 changes enhance the implementation of the Clean Water Act and corresponding regulations in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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