

**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD**

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**  
for Rule Amendments in OAC 785:50  
Proposed for Adoption During 2025

**A. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULES.**

The proposed changes to this rule are to make it more concise and easier for staff understanding and public understanding and perception. The current rules need correction as they have long had grammatical errors and were not presented in a manner that was easy to read and interpret. Also, this proposed change adds points to the ranking of the REAP grant affording eligible entities the opportunity to increase their opportunity for receiving REAP grant funding. The proposed changes also add a new financing program for hazard mitigation projects that will be implemented by Oklahoma Emergency Management.

**B. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO MOST LIKELY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULES, INCLUDING CLASSES THAT WILL BEAR THE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED RULES, AND ANY INFORMATION ON COST IMPACTS RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY FROM ANY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITIES.**

The proposed changes will affect staff and the population of Oklahoma eligible entities who are attempting to apply for financing. There will be no cost incurred by these proposed changes.

**C. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED RULES.**

The probable economic impact of these proposed rule changes is that it will be easier and more understandable for Oklahoma eligible entities to apply for, and potentially receive, necessary grant funding, as well as the opportunity to take additional steps to elevate their ranking on the priority list.

**D. A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULES UPON AFFECTED CLASSES OF PERSONS OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, INCLUDING A LISTING OF ALL FEE CHANGES AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, A SEPARATE JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH FEE CHANGE.**

There will be no costs to the agency or state revenues associated with this proposed rule change. The benefit to the agency is that staff will be able to more easily ascertain eligibility and ranking of grant applications, and provide a more rapid response to grant requests thereby providing eligible entities with the funding they need for their critical infrastructure projects.

**E. THE PROBABLE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO THE AGENCY AND TO ANY OTHER AGENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULES, THE SOURCE OF REVENUE TO BE USED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULES, AND ANY ANTICIPATED EFFECT ON STATE REVENUES, INCLUDING A PROJECTED NET LOSS OR GAIN IN STATE REVENUES IF IT CAN BE PROJECTED BY THE AGENCY.**

Any costs associated with these programs will be covered by legislatively authorized administrative fees. It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will have no effect on state revenues.

**F. A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED RULES MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS AS PROVIDED BY THE OKLAHOMA SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT.**

These proposed rule changes will not have an adverse economic effect on small business but likely could provide benefit to small businesses which are located in eligible entities experiencing water and wastewater infrastructure needs. Good infrastructure is invaluable to a community and the small businesses located within it.

**G. AN EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURES THE AGENCY HAS TAKEN TO MINIMIZE COMPLIANCE COSTS AND A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE ARE LESS COSTLY OR NONREGULATORY METHODS OR LESS INTRUSIVE METHODS FOR ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULES.**

There are no compliance costs, regulatory issues, or intrusive affects to these proposed rule changes.

**H. A DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED RULES ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT AND, IF THE PROPOSED RULES 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 RULES WILL REDUCE THE RISK.**

These proposed rules changes could very significantly reduce substantial risks to the public health, safety, and environmental concerns caused by water and wastewater infrastructure disrepair. Infrastructure affected by deterioration and disrepair can present enormous public health, safety, and environmental issues when not addressed in a timely manner. Being able to more quickly access grant funds when eligible, reduces the time necessary to obtain other funding and improve water and wastewater infrastructure.

**I. A DETERMINATION OF ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT IF THE PROPOSED RULES ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED.**

The detrimental effect on the public health, safety, and environment of not implementing these proposed rule changes is that in their current state, it is much slower to be able to complete the processes required to award grant funding. The longer infrastructure remains in a condition of disrepair, the more opportunity for risks to the health, safety, and environment of the public.

**J. THE DATE THE RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED AND IF MODIFIED, THE DATE MODIFIED:**

This rule impact statement was prepared by Sara Gibson, General Counsel, on November 14, 2024.