



Current Report

PUBLISHED BY OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

208 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING
-- TO KEEP OKLAHOMA'S WATER CLEAN --

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OSU COLLECTION
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CLEAN WATER IS A DIMINISHING RESOURCE

In recent years the demand for clean water has been steadily increasing while its available supply has been decreasing. Clean water is a necessity of life yet we are permitting many pollutants to enter our streams unnecessarily, thus reducing the supply available for use at any one time.

PUBLIC LAW 92-500 ADDRESSES WATER POLLUTION

Water pollution increased to such critical proportions that Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments in 1972, known as Public Law 92-500, to help clean up our country's waters. The goals of P.L. 92-500 are to reduce, prevent and ultimately eliminate as much water pollution as possible. It seeks to achieve swimmable and fishable water in all streams and lakes by 1983 wherever attainable.

NON-POINT SOURCES OF POLLUTION

As major "point" sources of pollution, such as municipal sewage and other "end-of-pipe" discharges, are being eliminated, "non-point" sources become more apparent. Non-point source pollution consists of rainwater runoff carrying many sorts of materials including acids, salts, metals, litter, soil, agricultural chemicals and other constituents.

208 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 208 of P.L. 92-500 calls for the development of area and statewide water quality management programs which deal with both "point" and "non-point" sources of pollution. Each area of the State will develop a plan to do the following: (1) identify the water quality problems; (2) identify the sources of pollution that cause each problem; (3) identify alternative "best management practices" to curb the pollution; (4) recommend a regulatory program to accomplish the desired water quality; and (5) recommend an agency or agencies to manage the program.

LEAD AGENCIES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three councils of governments head the planning for three areas with the most critical water pollution problems, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and two counties adjacent to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control is the lead planning agency for the remainder of the State. In all cases the law prescribes that the public shall participate in the planning process so that the management plan will be accepted and carried out in each community.

THINGS YOU
CAN DO

These are some things that you can do: (1) ask to be placed on the mailing list to receive The Oklahoma Water Watch, a newsletter of the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control; (2) pay attention to 208 items in the news media; (3) check the 208 documents and inventory data on file in a library in your area; (4) arrange a special 208 meeting for your group; (5) attend public meetings on 208; (6) direct your questions, opinions and advice to the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control, N.E. 10th and Stonewall, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 (405-271-4677), or to your Substate Planning District Office.

BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES (BMPs)

Best management practices (BMPs) are the practices that can be adapted locally to curb pollution. Generally there will be several BMPs that can be employed. They may already be practiced by some, but not widely adopted. They will be locally effective in reducing or diminishing pollution to be classified as best management practices. Examples might include: (1) frequent street sweeping routines in a city; (2) terracing farm lands; (3) building waterways that will not erode; (4) re-vegetating construction sites promptly.

THREE PHASES OF
WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
PLANNING

During Phase I, which much of Oklahoma is now in, data will be gathered to assess the water pollution problems and to establish the concerns and preferences of the community.

During Phase II, the first five or six months of 1978, several options (BMPs) will be identified to accomplish the desired water quality and those BMPs that are impractical or unacceptable in the local situation will be eliminated. Oklahoma City and Tulsa have already reached this phase in the planning.

During Phase III, from mid-summer 1978 to November 1978, a comprehensive water quality management plan will be developed for each locality and for the State of Oklahoma.

AREA MEETINGS
AND PUBLIC
HEARINGS

Area meetings and public hearings will be held throughout the State to aid communications between the professional planners and the general public. These will be arranged by the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control and the Substate Planning Districts. Watch for the announcements in the local news media.

OTHER GATHERINGS

Other gatherings are encouraged to consider 208 Water Quality Management Planning. Results should be reported to the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control and also publicized through the local media.

SLIDE-TAPE
PROGRAM
AVAILABLE

A slide-tape program on "208 Water Quality Management Planning," is available through your local County Extension Office. It is 11 minutes in length and is suited for civic club presentations.