

GENERAL PERMIT NO. 14
FOR TRANSPORTATION CROSSINGS
IN CRITICAL RESOURCE WATERS IN OKLAHOMA

In accordance with Title 33 CFR 325.5(c), as published November 13, 1986, in the Federal Register, the District Engineer (DE), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, has authorized issuance of a General Permit (GP) for the construction of transportation crossings in Critical Resource Waters (CRW) in Oklahoma defined as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) and their watersheds and High Quality Waters (HQW) as identified and designated in Oklahoma Water Quality Standards (OWQS), OAC 785: Chapter 45, Appendix A. This GP is reissued pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

Expiration: This GP is set to expire on November 5, 2024.

Scope of Work: Work authorized by this GP would be limited to activities required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation crossings (e.g., highways, railways, trails, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands, provided the following:

- (1) The permit applicant notifies the Corps prior to the use of this GP in accordance with the notification procedures below.
- (2) The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States, Waters of the United States temporarily affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage, where the project area is restored to preconstruction contours and elevation, are not included in the calculation of permanent loss of waters of the United States.
- (3) For discharges in special aquatic sites (wetlands, stream riffle and pool complexes, sanctuaries and refuges, and vegetated shallows), the notification must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic site.
- (4) The width of the fill is limited to the minimum necessary for the crossing.
- (5) The authorized activities must not cause more than minimal changes to the hydraulic flow characteristics of the stream, increase flooding, or cause more than minimal degradation of water quality of any stream.
- (6) The crossing is a single and complete project for crossing waters of the United States. Where a road segment has multiple crossings of streams, the Corps will consider whether it should use its discretionary authority to require an individual permit.

The following activities are not authorized by this GP:

- (1) Stream channelization.
- (2) Non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangers.

Note 1: Some discharges for the construction of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment may be eligible for an exemption from the need for

Section 404 permit (see 33 CFR 323.4).

Note 2: Access roads used for construction may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this GP. Access roads used solely for construction of transportation crossing must be removed upon completion of the work and the area restored to preconstruction contours, elevations, and wetland conditions. Temporary access roads for construction may be authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 33.

Location of Work: This GP is applicable to all CRW within the state of Oklahoma, as illustrated in Enclosures 3 through 8, excluding:

- (1) defined archeological and historical sites,
- (2) sites listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, and
- (3) State Historic Sites.

ORW: Waters designated ORW in Appendix A of the OWQS (July 1, 2014) include the following, and all waters located in watersheds of these waters:

- (1) Flint Creek (all) in Adair County and the following tributary: Sager Creek.
- (2) Upper Illinois River - Upstream from the confluence of the Barren Fork River in Cherokee, Adair, and Delaware counties, east to the Arkansas State line and the following tributaries: Tahlequah Creek and Ballard Creek.
- (3) Barren (Baron) Fork River - In Cherokee and Adair counties, from its confluence with the Illinois River, upstream to the Arkansas State line, and including the following tributaries: Tyner Creek, Dennison Hollow, Peacheater Creek, Scraper Hollow, England Hollow, Green Creek, Shell Branch, and Evansville Creek.
- (4) Upper Mountain Fork River - Upstream of the 600 feet above mean sea level (msl) elevation (upstream of Broken Bow Reservoir) in McCurtain and Le Flore counties, and the following tributaries: Buktuklo Creek, Blue Creek, Big Eagle Creek, Little Eagle Creek, Cucumber Creek, Beech (Beach) Creek, Cow Creek, and Panther Creek.
- (5) Lee Creek - Upstream from 420 feet msl elevation in Sequoyah County, and the following tributaries: Webbers Creek and Briar Creek (Bear Creek).
- (6) Little Lee Creek, in Adair and Sequoyah counties, and the following tributary: Jenkins Creek.

HQW: Waters of the United States designated HQW listed in Appendix A of the OWQS (July 1, 2013) include the following:

- (1) Water Quality Management Basin 1: the Illinois River from headwater of Robert S. Kerr Reservoir to Barren Fork confluence, Fourteen Mile Creek, Spring Creek, Snake Creek, Little Spring Creek, Saline Creek, Little Saline Creek, Brush Creek, Beaty Creek, Honey Creek, Cave Springs Branch, and Warren Branch.
- (2) Water Quality Management Basin 2: Lee Creek downstream from 420 feet msl elevation, Black Fork upstream from Cedar Creek, Sallisaw Creek upstream from U.S. Route 64.
- (3) Water Quality Management Basin 3: Pennington Creek, Guy Sandy Creek, Honey Creek, Crater Creek, Panther Creek, West Cache Creek upstream from Panther Creek.
- (4) Water Quality Management Basin 4: Little River from the Arkansas State line to Pine Creek Dam, Mountain Fork River downstream from the Broken Bow Dam, Lukfata Creek, Glover River, Cedar Creek above Glover River, Carter Creek, Pine Creek, West Fork of Glover River, Bluff Creek, East Fork of Glover River, Cedar Creek, Carter Creek, Pine

Creek, West Fork, Bluff Creek, East Fork, Cypress Creek, Little River upstream from and including the Pine Creek Reservoir, Pine Creek, Terrapin Creek, Houston Creek, Cloudy Creek, Jack Creek, Black Fork, Cedar Creek, Blue River upstream from State Hwy 48A bridge.

(5) Water Quality Management Basin 7: North Canadian (Beaver) River upstream from Texas State line to New Mexico State line, Cimarron River upstream from the Colorado State line to the New Mexico State line.

Duration: This GP would be in effect for a period of 5 years from date of issuance, unless it is specifically modified, suspended, or revoked. Upon its expiration, the GP would be considered for renewal. The GP may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, at any time, if the DE determines that the proposed project or cumulative effects of its activities would have more than minimal adverse environmental impacts or may be contrary to public interest. Work previously authorized by this GP would not be affected by subsequent modification, suspension, or revocation of the GP.

If the DE determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then he would notify the applicant either (1) that the project does not qualify for authorization under the GP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (2) that the project is authorized under the GP subject to the applicant's submitting a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects to the minimal level; or (3) that the project is authorized under the GP with specific modifications or conditions.

Activities which have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon GP 14 will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of GP 14's expiration, modification, or revocation.

Water Quality Certification (WQC): A Section 401 WQC was issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality with conditions on September 5, 2019. The WQC is attached and incorporated at General Condition 27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions

Other Authorizations: Individuals considering work on lands or waters under the jurisdiction of other federal, state, or local agencies would be responsible for obtaining any permits required by such agencies.

Notification Procedure: Persons desiring to perform work under this GP would furnish notification to the Corps, Tulsa District as early as possible prior to the anticipated construction date. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:
(1) Until notified by the DE that the activity may proceed under the GP with any special conditions imposed by the District or Division Engineer; or

(2) If notified by the District or Division Engineer that an individual permit is required, until after the individual permit has been evaluated and issued.

The notification must be in writing and may be submitted on a Department of the Army Permit Application (Eng Form 4345). If construction and material placement is to be in a Corps lake, the information must be sent through the appropriate Area/Lake Manager. Information for work in all other locations should be sent directly to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, ATTN: Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137. The content of the notification must include the following information:

- (1) Name, address, and telephone number(s) of the prospective permittee.
- (2) Location of the proposed project and a vicinity map. The location of the proposed work may be shown on a 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map.
- (3) Brief description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), regional GP(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity.
- (4) Delineation of any special aquatic sites (wetlands, stream riffle and pool complexes, sanctuaries and refuges) to be affected by the proposed construction.
- (5) A site plan view. This should be drawn to show any delineated wetland, existing embankments, flow direction, property boundaries, adjoining property owners, directional north, the proposed activity with distances and dimensions, excavation and fill areas, and the quantity of excavation and fill.
- (6) A cross-section or profile view. This should be drawn to indicate excavation and fill areas, fill types, existing and proposed contours of the stream and embankment, and the water depth.
- (7) Information on any temporary features to be constructed (such as a work road) including the location, dimensions, quantities, source of borrow materials, water management design, timing and duration, and removal and restoration parameters.
- (8) A description of alternative routes and designs considered for avoiding and minimizing impacts to the aquatic ecosystem. The submitted information should support that the proposed project is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.
- (9) Mitigation: Permit applicants are responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable impacts. The amount of mitigation must be, to the extent practicable, sufficient to replace lost aquatic resource functions. The notification must include a statement describing how impacts to waters of the United States are to be avoided and minimized. The application must also include either a statement describing how impacts to waters of the United States are to be compensated for or a statement explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required.
- 10) A title block should be included on each page of the drawings. The title block should include the proposed activity, applicant, waterbody, and county/state.
- (11) If the project is to be located in a lake not operated by the Corps, written approval from the owner/manager must be furnished.

Verification Procedure: Upon receipt of a notification by a prospective permittee, the Corps will expeditiously provide a copy of the applicant's request including project information to the following:

- State Historic Preservation Office (Oklahoma Archeological Survey and Oklahoma Historic Society)
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), if the Corps determines that the proposed project has the potential to affect federally listed threatened or endangered species.

These agencies will have 10 days to indicate they will be providing site-specific comments with regard to the proposed project. Their comments must relate to matters within their expertise (i.e., proximity to known archeological or cultural resources, special water quality considerations, endangered species) respectively, and must be provided in writing. Once they notify the Corps they will be providing site-specific comments, the Corps will wait 5 additional days for these comments before proceeding with GP verification. The Corps will fully consider comments provided by these agencies in the determination of whether the project should proceed under the GP.

If the DE determines that the proposed work meets the provisions of the GP, and no extraordinary conditions exist that would warrant filing for a standard permit, the Corps would notify the applicant by letter that the project falls under this GP.

If the DE determines that the proposed work does not meet the provisions of the GP, or that extraordinary conditions exist, the Corps would notify the applicant that filing for a standard permit would be necessary. The applicant should be aware that additional evaluation time will be required for a final decision on any individual permit application submitted subsequent to disqualification under the GP.

Mitigation: The mitigation rules are located in 33 CFR Part 332, dated April 10, 2008, and the accompanying Tulsa District issued Mitigation Guidelines. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States must be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable at the project site. Compensation for unavoidable discharge of fill materials may require appropriate mitigation measures. Factors that the DE will consider when determining the environmentally preferable option will include, but are not limited to:

- a. The likelihood for ecological success and sustainability.
- b. The location of the compensation site relative to the impact site and the significance within the watershed.
- c. The costs of the compensatory mitigation project.

To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. A watershed approach to compensatory mitigation must be used to consider how the types and locations of compensatory mitigation projects will provide the desired aquatic resource functions. In general, the required compensatory mitigation should be located within the same watershed as the impact site, and should be located where it is

most likely to successfully replace lost functions and services. Restoration is the preferred form of compensatory mitigation for losses of aquatic resource functions. If avoidance and minimization are not practicable options, then compensatory mitigation, through enhancement, establishment and in certain circumstances preservation are required.

Preservation is the least preferable option because there is no gain in aquatic resources to offset the losses to be caused by the project. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: further reducing the size of the project; establishing wetland or upland buffer zones to protect aquatic resource values; replacing the loss of aquatic resource values by establishing, restoring, or enhancing similar functions and values; or using bioremediation techniques in conjunction with other methods to offset project impacts.

Conditions of GP: All work authorized under this GP would be subject to the GP 14 Specific Conditions (Enclosure 1) and the General Conditions (Enclosure 2).

Andrew R. Commer
Chief, Regulatory Office

October 15, 2019
Date of Issuance

Enclosures

GENERAL PERMIT 14
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Permittee Construction Schedule Notification: Complete and return the enclosed "Permittee Construction Schedule" form. Should construction be initiated prior to 30 days from authorization of this project, please return the completed form as soon as possible. If you prefer, you may telephone 918-669-7400 to inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the construction start date.

2. Bridge and Roadway Debris: To the maximum extent practicable, all demolition materials generated in the vicinity of this permit site shall be removed from the stream. These materials include, but are not limited to asphalt, metal, wood, and concrete. Subsurface support and structures shall be removed to below the bed of the stream and remaining portions covered with native streambed materials. Measures should be taken to ensure that fallback of debris to the stream is minimized, and all pieces of debris 6 inches or larger (single dimension) are captured and disposed of properly off-site. No bridge and support demolition debris shall be used as riprap material or embankment or abutment stabilization in Critical Resource Waters.

3. Clearing of Vegetation:
 - a. The clearing of vegetation should be kept to a minimum necessary in the right-of-way (ROW). Blanket spraying of broadleaf herbicides in ROW should be avoided.
 - b. Any periodic brush-hogging or mowing that may be required for ROW maintenance shall be performed during the fall and winter months.
 - c. The periodic removal of tall woody vegetation within the ROW should be performed during the fall and winter months.

4. Erosion Control Measures (ECM): The ECM, such as silt screen barriers, shall be implemented at the toe of the stream channel and maintained during construction. Barriers shall remain in place and effective until sufficient vegetation coverage on exposed areas is established. Upon inspection of erosion control barriers, if there is any damage to the barrier, it shall be replaced or repaired within 24 hours of discovery. All exposed earthen areas, disturbed or newly created by the construction, shall be seeded immediately, replanted, or provided equivalent protection against subsequent erosion.

5. Riparian Areas and Native Grasses:
 - a. The permittee shall only use native vegetation in re-vegetating the project site following completion of construction. The permittee shall plant native grasses in all disturbed areas that vegetative cover has been eliminated.
 - b. The permittee shall minimize to the maximum extent practicable the removal of stream-shading trees when preparing the project site and constructing the crossing.
 - c. Measures should be taken to ensure the survivability of all planted vegetation.

d. The use of non-native or cultivated plant species is prohibited. The use of presoaked willow or river birch stakes should be incorporated into restored banks.

6. Wetland Impacts: The use of the existing wetland seedbed shall be planted on top of the newly constructed slope during the appropriate planting season.

7. Stockpile Area: The stockpile area shall not be located in a jurisdictional wetland or stream. You shall incorporate ECM along the entire length of the stockpile area to prevent excavated material from eroding in the upland location.

8. Monitoring for Stream Impacts: The permittee shall monitor the streambank for destabilization for a period of 2 years. If stream destabilization occurs during this period, the permittee shall notify the Corps, Regulatory Office immediately in writing. This report shall assess the condition of the stream. The permittee shall include photographs of the stream channel and degraded area. After notification is made, the permittee may be required to submit a detailed plan discussing how to repair the problem while providing minimal effects to the mitigation area.

9. Project-Specific Locations Pre-Construction Meeting: The permittee shall conduct a meeting with the contractor(s) detailing the terms and conditions of this permit prior to commencing construction activities of the project. The permittee shall notify the Corps of the pre-construction meeting at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting. Within two weeks following the meeting, the permittee will also provide written confirmation to the Corps that the meeting was held.

10. Coordination of Project-Specific Locations: The permittee shall not initiate activities in the permit area associated with this permit, which have not been previously evaluated by the Corps as part of the permit review for this project. Such activities include, but are not limited to haul roads, equipment staging areas, and borrow/disposal sites. The permit area includes all waters of the United States affected by activities associated with the project, as well as any additional area(s) of non-waters of the United States in the immediate vicinity of, directly associated with, and/or affected by, activities in waters of the United States. Special restrictions may be required for such work. The permittee shall develop procedures to ensure that contractors are aware of this condition and encourage contractors to coordinate their selection of these sites with the permittee as soon as possible to avoid construction delays. The permittee, or their designated agent/contractor, may coordinate with the Corps regarding this condition.

11. Bioengineering Practices: The permittee must consider bioengineering practices for all authorizations requiring bank stabilization where riprap or other hard armor erosion control are planned.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. Navigation:

- a. The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration;
- b. No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation and;
- c. No attempt shall be made by the permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the activity authorized by this permit.

2. Aquatic Life Movements: No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary lifecycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low-flow conditions.

3. Spawning Areas: Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the United States or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavation, filling, or smothering downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. Waterfowl Breeding Areas: Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the United States or discharges of dredged or fill material, in breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. Shellfish Beds: No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the United States or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations.

6. Suitable Material: No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the United States or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. Water Supply Intakes: No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the United States or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity

of a public water supply

8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments: If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
9. Management of Water Flows: To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and stormwater management activities, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).
10. Fills within 100-Year Floodplains: The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
11. Equipment: Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls: Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
13. Removal of Temporary Fills: Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.
14. Proper Maintenance: Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the District Engineer (DE) to a General Permit (GP) authorization.
15. Reserved.
16. Wild and Scenic Rivers: No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status; unless the appropriate federal agency, with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation, or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate federal land management agency in the

area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)).

17. Tribal Rights: No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. Endangered Species:

a. No activity is authorized under any GP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. If any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, the permittee shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the DE that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized.

b. Authorization of an activity by a GP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the USFWS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the office of the USFWS or their website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies/>.

19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles: The permittee is responsible for obtaining any "take" permits required under the USFWS regulations governing compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee should contact the appropriate local office of the USFWS to determine if such "take" permits are required for a particular activity.

20. Historical Properties: No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the DE has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee shall immediately notify the DE, if the authorized activity might affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe might be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the DE that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts: If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains, you shall stop work and immediately contact the Corps, Regulatory Office at 918-669-7400. To the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The DE will initiate the federal, tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Reserved.

23. Mitigation: The DE will determine the appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment by considering the following:

a. The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site.

b. To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: (1) Reducing the size of the project; (2) establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; (3) and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.

c. The permittee will give preference to use of mitigation bank credits as the primary preference hierarchy for mitigation. Where potential impacts are not located in the service area of an approved mitigation bank, or the approved mitigation bank does not have the appropriate number and resource type of credits available to offset those impacts, in-lieu fee mitigation, if available, is generally preferable to permittee-responsible mitigation. Permittee-responsible mitigation, either on-site or off-site, shall be considered if a mitigation bank and/or in-lieu fee program is unavailable or the use of which would be impracticable.

d. Compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 will be required for all wetland impacts, unless the DE determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project specific waiver of this requirement. Consistent with National policy, the DE will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.

e. Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.

24. Safety of Impoundment Structures: To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The DE may also require documentation that the design

has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. Reserved.

26. Reserved.

27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions: The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. Reserved

29. Transfer of General Permit Verifications: If the permittee sells the property associated with a GP verification, the permittee may transfer the permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:
“When the structures or work authorized by this General Permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this General Permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

(Transferee)

(Date)

30. Compliance Certification: Every permittee who has received GP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification form will be provided by the Corps with the authorization letter and will require:

- a. A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps authorization, including any general or specific conditions;
- b. A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and
- c. The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

31. Reserved.

32. Property Rights: This permit does not convey any property rights, either in real

estate or material, or any exclusive privileges; and that it does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations, nor does it obviate the requirement to obtain other federal, state, or local assent required by law for the activity authorized herein.

33. Real Estate:

a. Deed Restrictions: If the recording of this permit is possible under applicable state or local law, the permittee shall take such action as may be necessary to record this permit with the Register of Deeds or other appropriate official charged with the responsibility of maintaining records of title to and interests in real property.

b. Government Property Easement: A request for an easement on Government property would be sent to the appropriate Area/Lake Manager or the DE along with this GP.

34. Compliance: All activities identified and authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit; and that any activities not specifically identified and authorized herein shall constitute a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit which may result in the modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit, in whole or in part, as set forth more specifically in General Conditions Number 24 hereto, and in the institution of such legal proceedings as the U.S. Government may consider appropriate, whether or not this permit has been previously modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part.

35. Minimization: The permittee agrees to make every reasonable effort to implement the work authorized herein in a manner so as to minimize any degrading of water quality, adverse impact of the work on fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic resources, and other natural environmental values.

36. Disturbed Areas:

a. The clearing of vegetation shall be minimized and limited to the immediate area of impact.

b. Disturbed areas shall be returned as closely as possible to the original topographic contours and reestablished with stabilizing vegetation promptly following completion of construction.

37. Proper Maintenance: The permittee shall maintain the structure or work authorized herein in good condition, including maintenance to include public safety. If and when the permittee desires to abandon the activity authorized herein, unless such abandonment is part of a transfer procedure by which the permittee is transferring his interests herein to a third party, he/she must restore the area to a condition satisfactory to the DE.

38. Inspection: The permittee shall allow the DE or his/her authorized representative(s) or designee(s) to make periodic inspections at any time deemed necessary in order to assure that the activity being performed under authority of this permit is in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed herein.

39. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation of General Permits:

- a. This permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked by the DE in accordance with 33 CFR 1344, Part 325.7(a)-(e).
- b. The DE will immediately suspend activities authorized herein, upon finding the immediate suspension would be in the general public interest.
- c. The DE upon suspension will provide the permittee of a written notice thereof which shall indicate (1) the extent of the suspension, (2) the reasons for this action, and (3) any corrective or preventative measures to be taken by the permittee which are deemed necessary by the DE to abate imminent hazards to the general public interest. The permittee shall take immediate action to comply with the provisions of this notice. Within 10 days following receipt of this notice of suspension, the permittee may request a meeting with the DE or request a hearing in order to present information relevant to a decision as to whether his/her permit should be reinstated, modified, or revoked.
- d. This permit may be either modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, if the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative determines that there has been a violation of any of the terms or conditions of this permit or that such action would otherwise be in the public interest.
- e. In issuing this permit, the Government has relied on the information and data, which the permittee has provided in connection with his/her permit application. If subsequent to the issuance of this permit, such information and data prove to be false, incomplete, or inaccurate, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the Government may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings.
- f. Any modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit shall not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States.

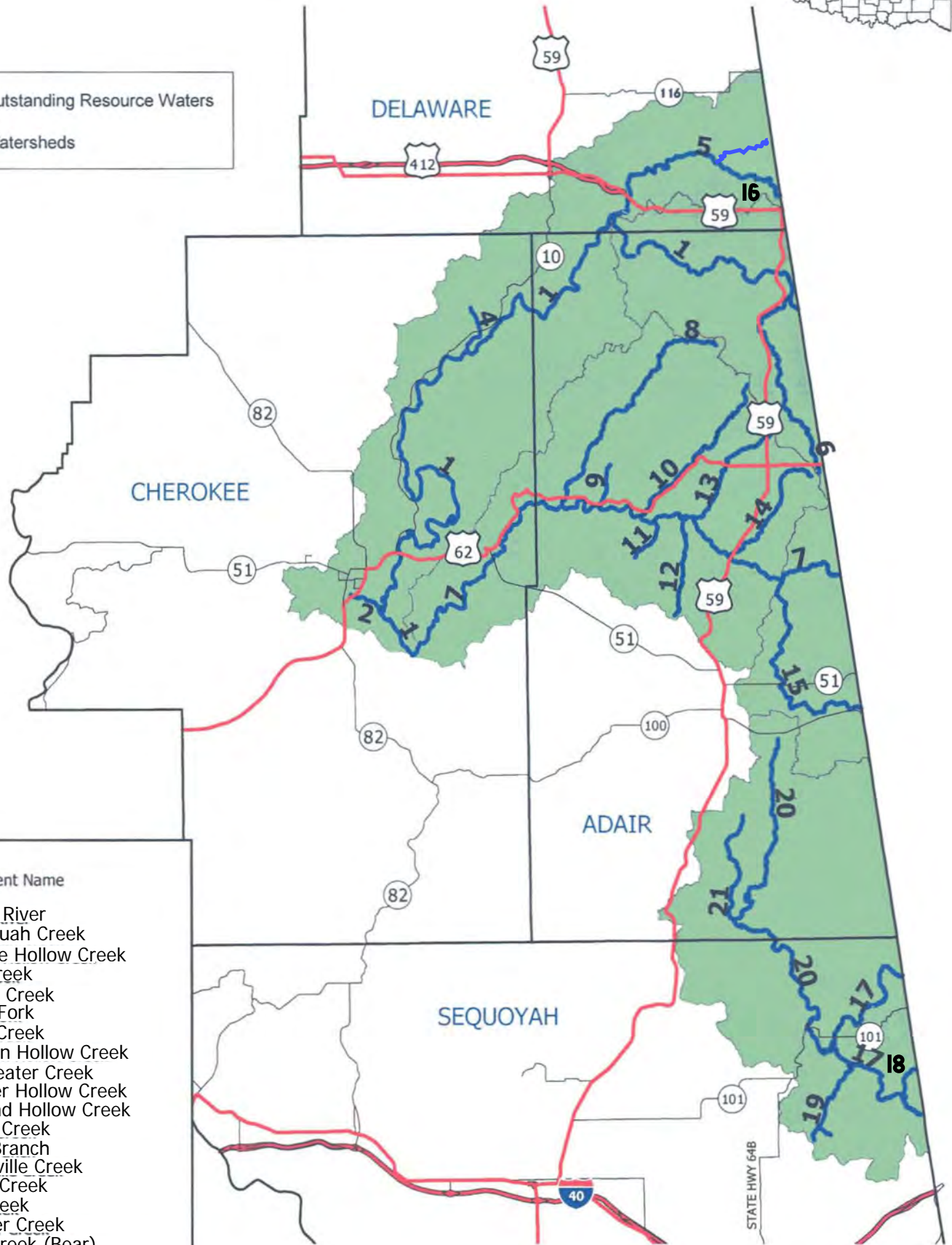
40. Fuel and Materials: Any material and fuels used in the project shall be stored and/or stockpiled above the OHWM and shall be removed from a likely flood zone prior to any predicted flood.

Outstanding Resource Waters - Northeast



 Outstanding Resource Waters
 Watersheds

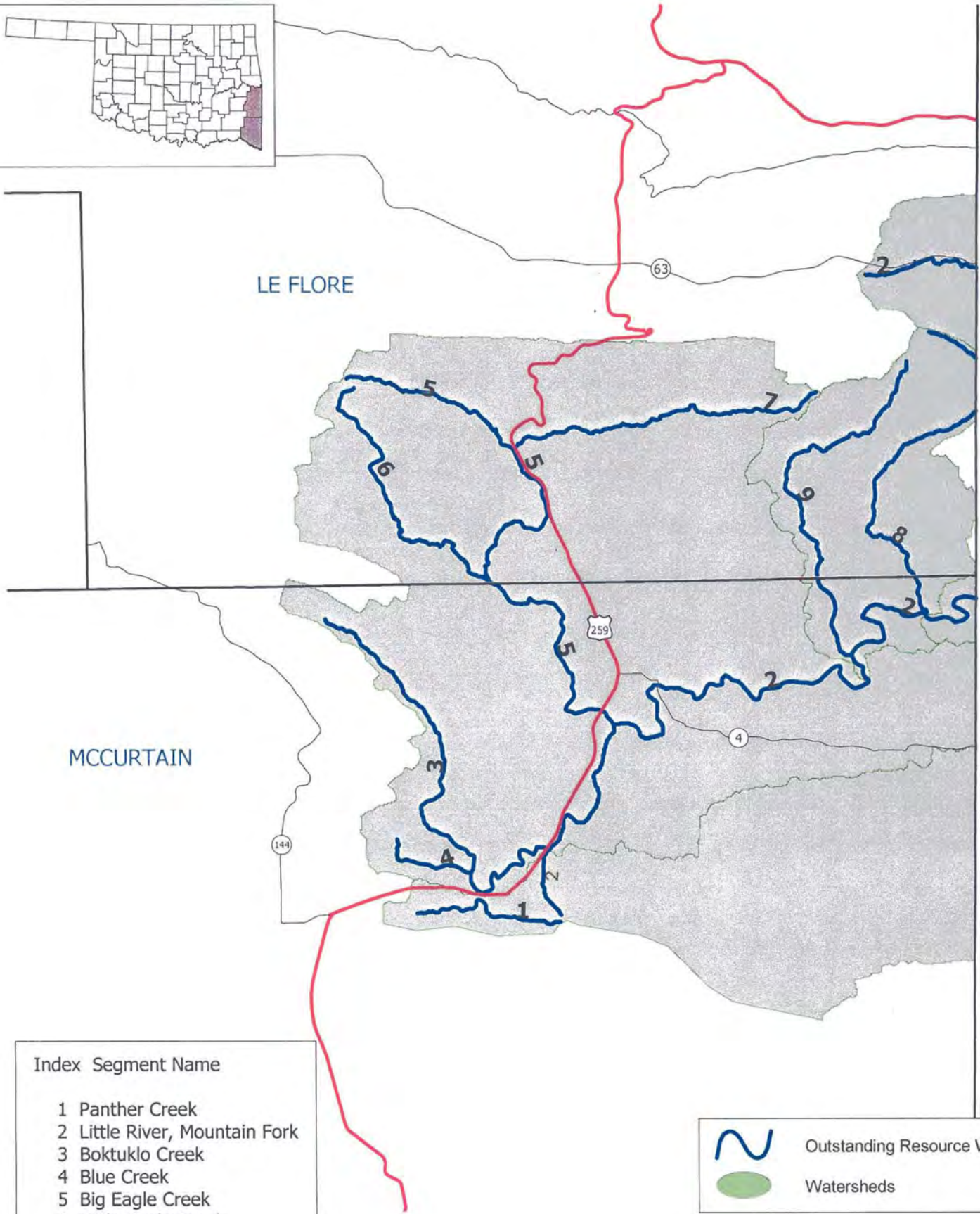
Index	Segment Name
1	Illinois River
2	Tahlequah Creek
4	Peavine Hollow Creek
5	Flint Creek
6	Ballard Creek
7	Baron Fork
8	Tyner Creek
9	Denison Hollow Creek
10	Peachater Creek
11	Scraper Hollow Creek
12	England Hollow Creek
13	Green Creek
14	Shell Branch
15	Evansville Creek
16	Sager Creek
17	Lee Creek
18	Webber Creek
19	Briar Creek (Bear)
20	Little Lee Creek
21	Jenkins Creek



Enclosure 3





Outstanding Resource Waters - Southeast



Index Segment Name

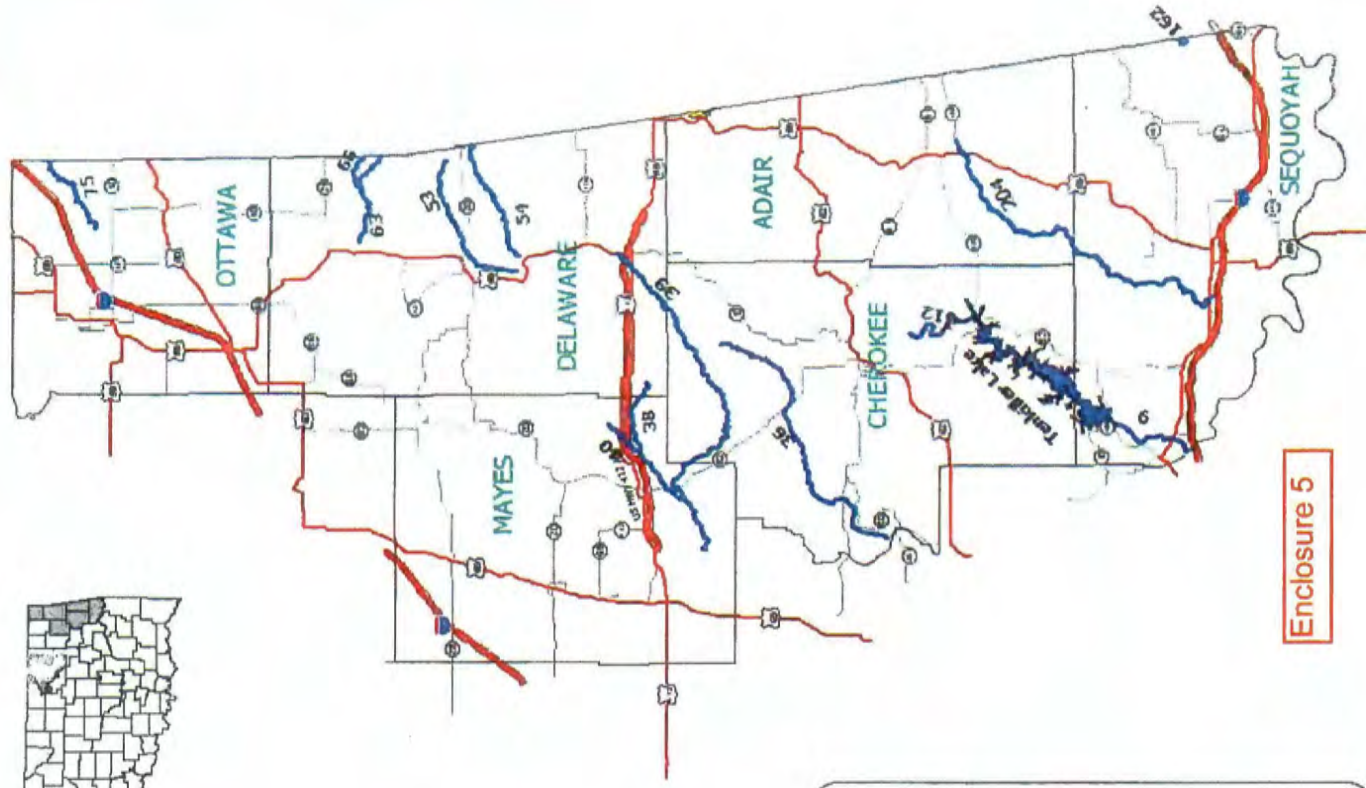
- 1 Panther Creek
- 2 Little River, Mountain Fork
- 3 Boktuklo Creek
- 4 Blue Creek
- 5 Big Eagle Creek
- 6 Little Eagle Creek
- 7 Cucumber Creek
- 8 Cow Creek
- 9 Beech Creek

 Outstanding Resource Waters
 Watersheds

Enclosure 4



High Quality Waters - Northeast



5 0 5 10 15 Miles

Standard_n Name

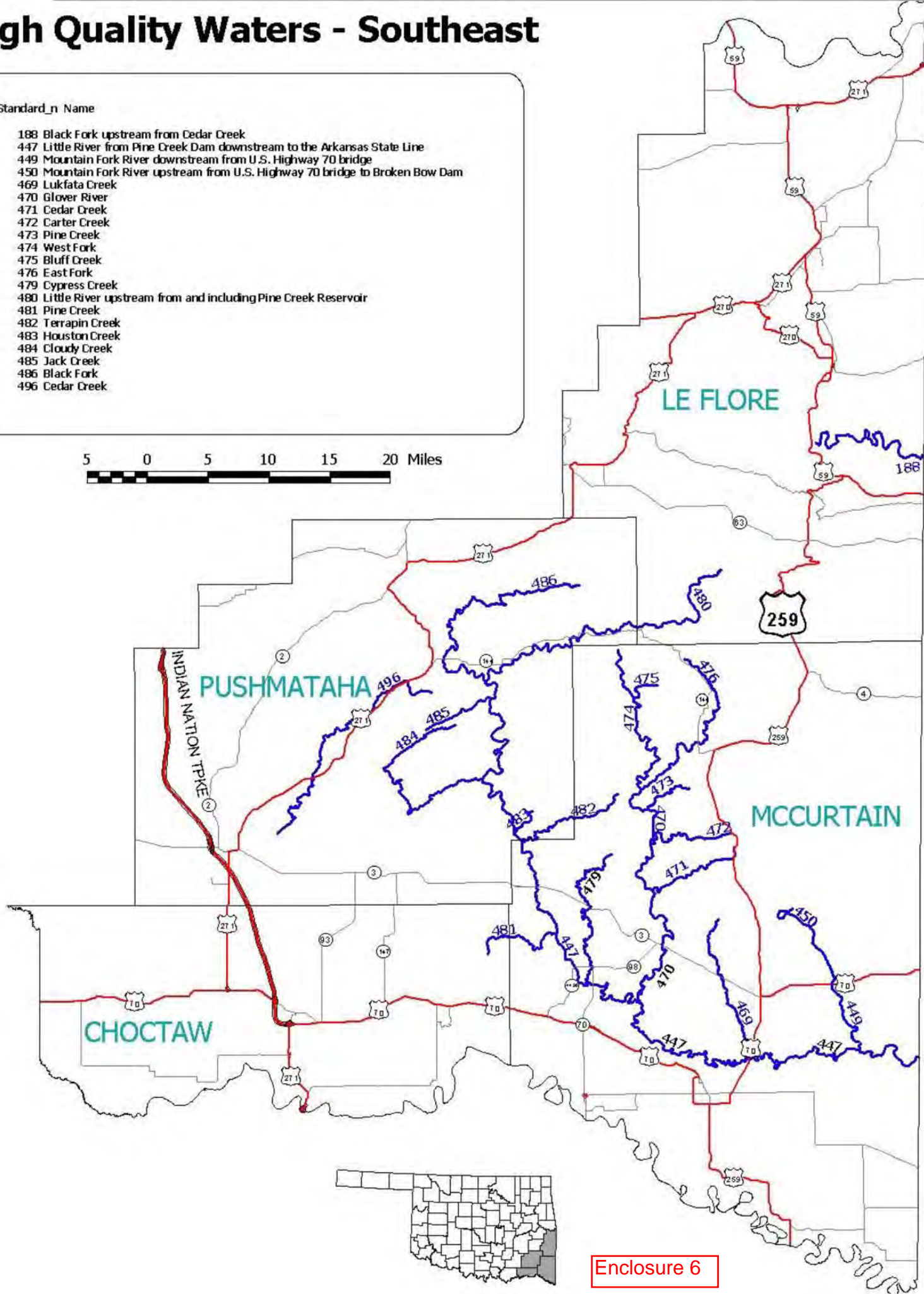
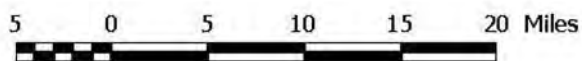
- 9 Lower Illinois River from headwater of Robert S. Kerr Reservoir to Tenkiller Dam
- 12 Upper Illinois River from Tenkiller Dam, including Tenkiller Lake, upstream to Barren Fork
- 36 Fourteen Mile Creek
- 38 Snake Creek
- 39 Spring Creek
- 40 Little Spring Creek
- 53 Brush Creek
- 54 Besty Creek
- 63 Honey Creek
- 66 Cave Springs Branch
- 75 Warren Branch
- 162 Lee Creek downstream from the 420 ft. elevation level
- 204 Sallisaw Creek upstream from U.S. Highway 64

Enclosure 5

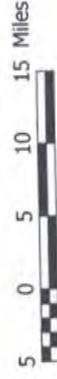
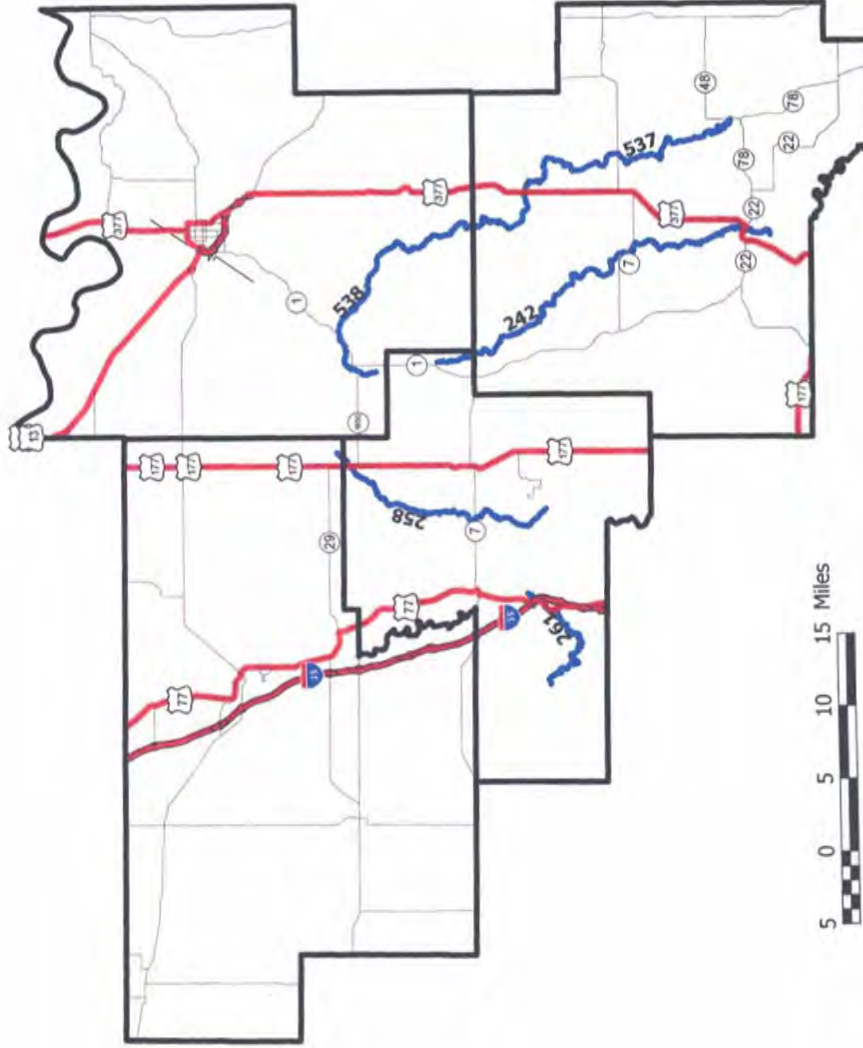
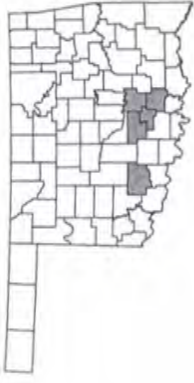
High Quality Waters - Southeast

Standard_n Name

- 188 Black Fork upstream from Cedar Creek
- 447 Little River from Pine Creek Dam downstream to the Arkansas State Line
- 449 Mountain Fork River downstream from U.S. Highway 70 bridge
- 450 Mountain Fork River upstream from U.S. Highway 70 bridge to Broken Bow Dam
- 469 Lufketa Creek
- 470 Glover River
- 471 Cedar Creek
- 472 Carter Creek
- 473 Pine Creek
- 474 West Fork
- 475 Bluff Creek
- 476 East Fork
- 479 Cypress Creek
- 480 Little River upstream from and including Pine Creek Reservoir
- 481 Pine Creek
- 482 Terrapin Creek
- 483 Houston Creek
- 484 Cloudy Creek
- 485 Jack Creek
- 486 Black Fork
- 496 Cedar Creek



High Quality Waters - Southwest

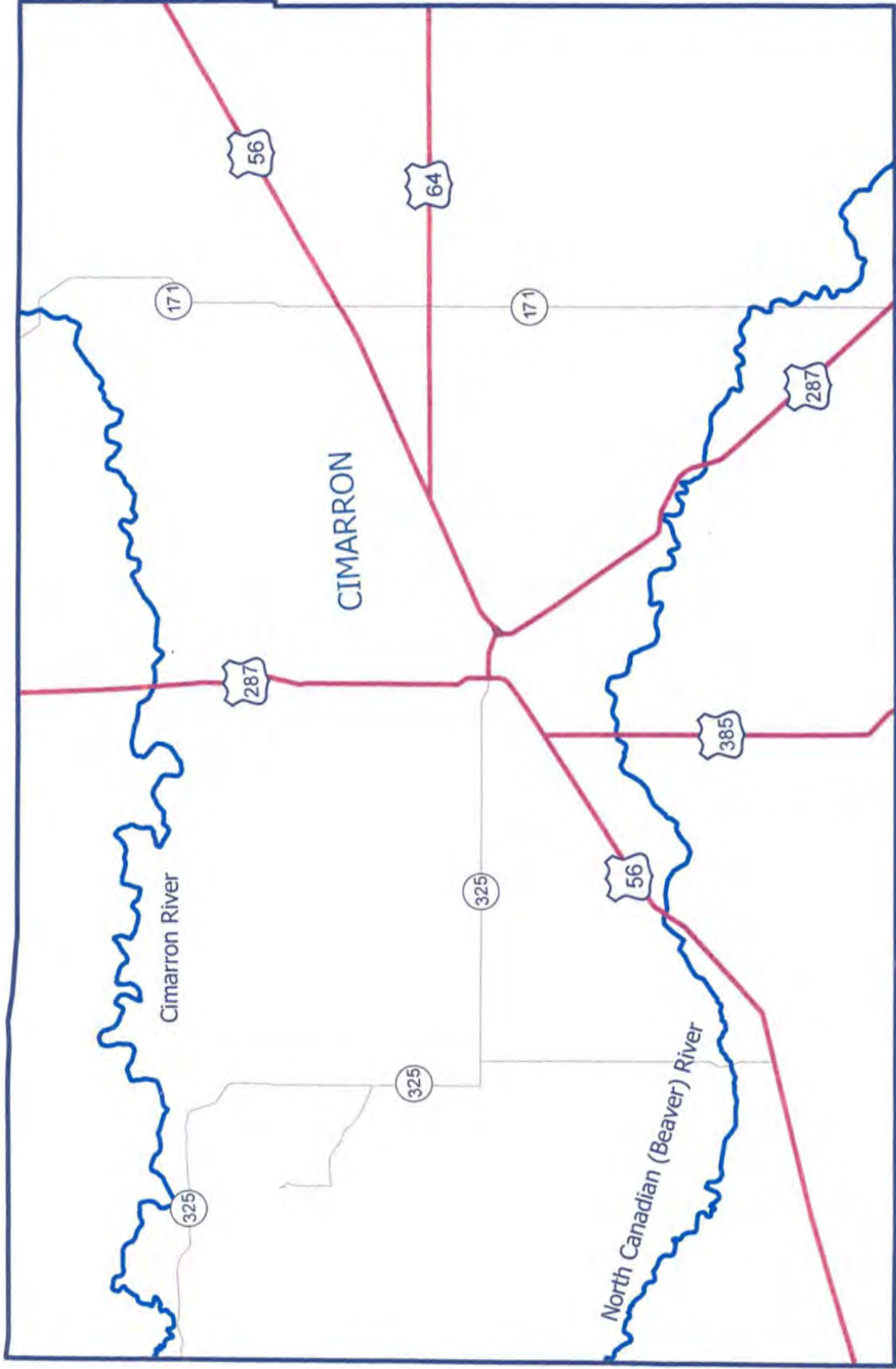


Standard_n Name

- 242 Pennington Creek
- 258 Guy Sandy Creek
- 261 Honey Creek
- 374 Crater Creek
- 385 Panther Creek
- 386 West Cache Creek upstream from Panther Creek
- 537 Blue River upstream from State Highway 48A Bridge to State Highway 7 Bridge
- 538 Blue River upstream from State Highway 7 Bridge

Enclosure 7

High Quality Waters - Panhandle





OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SCOTT A. THOMPSON
Executive Director

September 5, 2019

Mr. Andrew R. Commer
Chief, Regulatory Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Regulatory Office (CESWT-RO)
2488 E 81st Street
Tulsa, OK 74137-4290

KEVIN STITT
Governor



Re: Water Quality Certification for Regional General Permits (RGP) for Utility Line Activities (General Permit No.12) and for Transportation Crossings (General Permit No.14) in Critical Resource Waters in Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Commer:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received your request for a Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. (1972)], for activities in Critical Resource Waters to be permitted under the General Permits issued pursuant to Section 404 of the Act. DEQ rules governing 401 Water Quality Certification are contained in Oklahoma Administrative Code (O.A.C.) § 252:611-3 pursuant to 27A O.S. § 2-6-103(C)(2). For copies of the DEQ rules and regulations related to the 401 procedures, please access it online at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/611.pdf> or contact the DEQ Office of External Affairs at (800) 869-1400.

This Water Quality Certification supersedes all previous Water Quality Certifications for the General Permit No.12 and General Permit No.14 in Critical Resource Waters in the state of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality grants Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification for the General Permit No. 12 and General Permit No. 14 for activities in Critical Resource Waters subject to the following condition:

1. All spills of fuel or other pollutants in excess of five gallons shall be reported to the DEQ, within twenty-four (24) hours, to the pollution prevention hotline at 1-800-522-0206.
2. All fueling and servicing of vehicles and equipment shall be done above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM).
3. The permittee shall provide access to the property for DEQ inspection purposes.
4. Work in stream channels shall be limited to periods of low flow, when practicable, and with the minimum amount of equipment.
5. Appropriate procedures shall be utilized during the construction of any project to prevent the release of construction debris, fuels and lubricants, or other deleterious materials into aquatic resources.



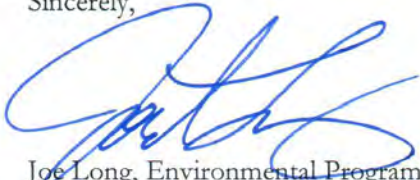
Page 2

Regional General Permits for Utility Line (General Permit No.12) and Linear Transportation (General Permit No.14) Activities

September 5, 2019

If you have any questions regarding this Certification, please contact Elena Jigoulina at 405-702-8200.

Sincerely,



Joe Long, Environmental Programs Manager
Watershed Planning Section
Water Quality Division

cc: Shane Charlson, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Tulsa
Barry Bolton, Fisheries Chief, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Bill Cauthron, Chief, Water Quality Programs Division, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Brooks Tramell, Monitoring, Assessment and Wetlands Programs, Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Lauren Poulos, Life Scientist, Ecosystems Protection Branch, U.S. EPA Region 6
Jennifer Lewis, Assistant Attorney General, Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General