

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 1225

By: Easley

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

(An Act relating to environment and natural resources
- effective date -

emergency)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 6, Chapter 398, O.S.L. 1992, as renumbered by Section 359, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 and as last amended by Section 24, Chapter 140, O.S.L. 1994 (27A O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1-3-101), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-3-101. A. The provisions of this section specify the jurisdictional areas of responsibility for each state environmental agency. The jurisdictional areas of responsibility specified in this section shall be in addition to those otherwise provided by law and assigned to the specific state environmental agency; provided that any rule, interagency agreement or executive order enacted or entered into prior to the effective date of this section which conflicts with the assignment of jurisdictional responsibilities specified by this section is hereby superceded. The provisions of this subsection shall not nullify any financial obligation arising from services rendered pursuant to any interagency agreement or

executive order entered into prior to July 1, 1993, nor nullify any obligations or agreements with private persons or parties entered into with any state environmental agency before July 1, 1993.

B. Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility:

1. All point source discharges of pollutants and storm water to waters of the state which originate from municipal, industrial, commercial, mining, transportation and utilities, construction, trade, real estate and finance, services, public administration, manufacturing and other sources, facilities and activities, except as provided in subsections D and E of this section;

2. All nonpoint source discharges and pollution except as provided in subsections D, E and F of this section;

3. Surface water and groundwater quality and protection and water quality certifications;

4. Waterworks and wastewater works operator certification;

5. Public and private water supplies;

6. Underground injection control except for brine recovery, saltwater disposal or secondary or tertiary oil recovery;

7. Air quality under the Federal Clean Air Act and applicable state law, except for indoor air quality and asbestos as regulated for worker safety by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and by Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

8. Hazardous waste and solid waste, including industrial, commercial and municipal waste;

9. Superfund responsibilities of the state under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 and amendments thereto, except the planning requirements of Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986;

10. Radioactive waste and all regulatory activities for the use of atomic energy and sources of radiation except for the use of sources of radiation by diagnostic x-ray facilities;

11. Water, waste, and wastewater treatment systems including but not limited to septic tanks or other public or private waste disposal systems;

12. Emergency response as specified by law;

13. Environmental laboratory services and laboratory certification;

14. Hazardous substances other than branding, package and labeling requirements;

15. Freshwater wellhead protection; and

16. Environmental regulation of any entity or activity, and the prevention, control and abatement of any pollution, not subject to the specific statutory authority of another state environmental agency.

C. Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility:

1. Water quantity including, but not limited to, water rights, surface water and underground water, planning, and interstate stream compacts;

2. Weather modification;

3. Dam safety;

4. Flood plain management;

5. State water/wastewater loans and grants revolving fund and other related financial aid programs;

6. Administration of the federal State Revolving Fund Program including, but not limited to, making application for and receiving capitalization grant awards, wastewater prioritization for funding, technical project reviews, environmental review process, and financial review and administration;

7. Water well drillers/pump installers licensing;

8. Technical lead agency for clean lakes eligible for funding under Section 314 of the Federal Clean Water Act ~~as specified by law~~ or other applicable sections of the Federal Clean Water Act or other subsequent state and federal clean lakes programs; administration of a state program for assessing, monitoring, studying and restoring Oklahoma lakes with administration to include, but not be limited to, receipt and expenditure of funds from federal, state and private sources for clean lakes and implementation of a volunteer monitoring program to assess and monitor state water resources; and

9. Statewide water quality standards.

D. State Department of Agriculture. 1. The State Department of Agriculture shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility except as provided in subsection B of this section and paragraphs 2 and 3 of this subsection:

- a. point and nonpoint source discharges from agricultural crop production, agricultural services, livestock production, silviculture, feed yards, livestock markets and animal waste,
- b. pesticide control,
- c. forestry and nurseries,
- d. fertilizer,
- e. facilities which store grain, feed, seed, fertilizer and agricultural chemicals, and
- f. dairy waste and wastewater associated with milk production facilities.

2. In addition to the areas of jurisdictional responsibility specified in subsection B of this section, the Department of Environmental Quality shall have environmental jurisdiction over:

- a. (1) commercial manufacturers of fertilizers, grain and feed products, and chemicals, and over manufacturing of food and kindred products,

tobacco, paper, lumber, wood, textile mill and other agricultural products,

(2) slaughterhouses, but not including feedlots at such facilities, and

(3) animal aquiculture and fish hatcheries, including, but not limited to, discharges of pollutants and storm water to waters of the state, surface impoundments and land application of wastes and sludge, and other pollution originating at such facilities, and

b. facilities which store grain, feed, seed, fertilizer, and agricultural chemicals that are required by federal NPDES regulations to obtain a permit for storm water discharges shall only be subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality with respect to such storm water discharges.

3. Any point source and nonpoint source discharges related to agriculture from sources specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection which require a federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems permit and which are not specified under paragraph 2 of this subsection as being subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality shall continue to be subject to the direct jurisdiction of the federal Environmental Protection Agency for issuance and enforcement of such permit and shall not be required to be permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Agriculture.

E. Corporation Commission. 1. The Corporation Commission is hereby vested with exclusive jurisdiction, power and authority, and it shall be its duty to promulgate and enforce rules, and issue and enforce orders governing and regulating:

a. the conservation of oil and gas,

- b. field operations for geologic and geophysical exploration for oil, gas and brine, including seismic survey wells, stratigraphic test wells and core test wells,
- c. the exploration, drilling, development, producing or processing for oil and gas on the lease site,
- d. the exploration, drilling, development, production and operation of wells used in connection with the recovery, injection or disposal of mineral brines produced from geological strata lying below three hundred (300) feet in depth from the surface,
- e. reclaiming facilities only for the processing of salt water, crude oil, natural gas condensate and tank bottoms or basic sediment from crude oil tanks, pipelines, pits and equipment associated with the exploration, drilling, development, producing or transportation of oil or gas,
- f. injection wells known as Class II wells under the federal Underground Injection Control Program. Any substance that the United States Environmental Protection Agency allows to be injected into a Class II well may continue to be so injected,
- g. tank farms for storage of crude oil and petroleum products which are located outside the boundaries of refineries, petrochemical manufacturing plants, natural gas liquid extraction plants, or other facilities which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality with regard to point source discharges,
- h. the construction and operation of pipelines and associated rights-of-way, equipment, facilities or buildings used in the transportation of oil, gas,

petroleum, petroleum products, anhydrous ammonia or mineral brine, or in the treatment of oil, gas or mineral brine during the course of transportation but not including line pipes in any:

- (1) natural gas liquids extraction plant,
- (2) refinery,
- (3) reclaiming facility other than for those specified within subparagraph e of this subsection,
- (4) mineral brine processing plant, and
- (5) petrochemical manufacturing plant,

i. the handling, transportation, storage and disposition of saltwater, mineral brines, waste oil and other deleterious substances produced from or obtained or used in connection with the drilling, development, producing and operating of oil and gas wells, at:

- (1) any facility or activity specifically listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection as being subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, and
- (2) other oil and gas extraction facilities and activities,

j. spills of deleterious substances associated with facilities and activities specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection or associated with other oil and gas extraction facilities and activities, and

k. subsurface storage of oil, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas in geologic strata.

2. The exclusive jurisdiction, power and authority of the Corporation Commission shall also extend to the construction, operation, maintenance, site remediation, closure and abandonment of

the facilities and activities described in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

3. When a deleterious substance from a Commission regulated facility or activity enters a point source discharge of pollutants or storm water from a facility or activity regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department shall have sole jurisdiction over the point source discharge of the commingled pollutants and storm water from the two facilities or activities insofar as Department regulated facilities and activities are concerned.

4. For purposes of the Federal Clean Water Act, any facility or activity which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection and any other oil and gas extraction facility or activity which requires a permit for the discharge of a pollutant or storm water to waters of the United States shall be subject to the direct jurisdiction of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and shall not be required to be permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Corporation Commission for such discharge.

5. The Corporation Commission shall have jurisdiction over:

- a. underground storage tank regulation assigned to the Commission pursuant to other Oklahoma statutes, including but not limited to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund and Indemnity Fund programs, provided that any point source discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States during site remediation shall be regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality, and
- b. aboveground storage tanks used in connection with the retail sale of flammable liquids into fuel tanks, provided that any point source discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States during site

remediation shall be regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality.

6. The Department of Environmental Quality shall have sole jurisdiction to regulate the transportation, discharge or release of deleterious substances or solid or hazardous waste or other pollutants from rolling stock and rail facilities.

7. The Department of Environmental Quality shall have sole environmental jurisdiction for point and nonpoint source discharges of pollutants and storm water to waters of the state from:

- a. refineries, petrochemical manufacturing plants and natural gas liquid extraction plants,
- b. manufacturing of oil and gas related equipment and products,
- c. bulk terminals, aboveground and underground storage tanks not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to this subsection,
- d. other facilities, activities and sources not subject to the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission or the Department of Agriculture as specified by this section.

8. The Department of Environmental Quality shall have sole environmental jurisdiction to regulate air emissions from all facilities and sources subject to operating permit requirements under Title V of the Federal Clean Air Act as amended.

F. Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility:

1. Soil conservation and erosion control;
2. Monitoring, evaluation and assessment of waters to determine ~~the extent of~~ stream and river health and the impacts caused by nonpoint source pollution and the development of conservation plans. ~~Serve~~ In carrying out this area of responsibility the Conservation

Commission shall serve as the technical lead agency for nonpoint source pollution categories as defined in Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act or other subsequent federal or state nonpoint source programs, except for activities related to industrial and municipal stormwater as otherwise provided by state law;

3. Recipient of nonpoint source pollution funds associated with Section 319 and other sections of the Federal Clean Water Act or other subsequent federal or state nonpoint source programs which are necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission authority over nonpoint source pollution;

4. Promulgate rules as necessary for the nonpoint source program;

5. Wetlands strategy;

~~4.~~ 6. Abandoned mine reclamation;

~~5.~~ 7. Cost share program for land use activities;

~~6.~~ 8. Assessment and conservation plan development and implementation in watersheds of clean lakes, as specified by law;

~~7.~~ 9. Complaint data management;

~~8.~~ 10. Coordinate environmental and natural resources education; and

~~9.~~ 11. Federal upstream flood control program.

As used in this subsection, "stream or river health" describes the ecological integrity of a flowing aquatic environment. Health relates to the structure and function of the ecosystem, where high levels of health imply sufficiently high levels of ecological complexity and high levels of community stability.

G. Department of Mines. The Department of Mines shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility:

1. Mining regulation; and

2. Mining reclamation of active mines.

H. Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibilities:

1. Investigating wildlife kills; and
2. Wildlife protection and seeking wildlife damage claims.

I. Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibilities:

1. Vehicle inspection for air quality;
2. Hazardous waste, substances and material transportation inspections as authorized by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; and

3. Inspection and audit activities of hazardous waste and materials carriers and handlers as authorized by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

J. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibility:

1. Regulation of asbestos in the workplace pursuant to Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Asbestos monitoring in public and private buildings; and

3. Indoor air quality as regulated under the authority of the Oklahoma Occupational Health and Safety Standards Act, except for those indoor air quality issues specifically authorized to be regulated by another agency.

Such programs shall be a function of the Department's occupational safety and health jurisdiction.

K. Department of Civil Emergency Management. The Department of Civil Emergency Management shall have the following jurisdictional areas of environmental responsibilities:

1. Coordination of all emergency resources and activities relating to threats to citizens' life and property pursuant to the Oklahoma Civil Defense and Emergency Resources Management Act;

2. Administer and enforce the planning requirements of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 and develop such other emergency operations plans that will enable the state to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate potential environmental emergencies and disasters pursuant to the Oklahoma Hazardous Materials Planning and Notification Act;

3. Administer and conduct periodic exercises of emergency operations plans provided for in this subsection pursuant to the Oklahoma Civil Defense and Emergency Resources Management Act;

4. Administer and facilitate hazardous materials training for state and local emergency planners and first responders pursuant to the Oklahoma Civil Defense and Emergency Resources Management Act; and

5. Maintain a computerized emergency information system allowing state and local access to information regarding hazardous materials' location, quantity and potential threat.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 320, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 (82 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1085.29), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1085.29 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is hereby designated as the state agency to administer, receive, and manage all programs and funds associated with Section 314 or other applicable sections of the ~~federal~~ Federal Clean Water Act ~~Program~~ or other subsequent state and federal clean lakes programs having the purposes of assessing, monitoring, studying and restoring Oklahoma lakes. In conducting the clean lakes program, the Board shall employ a cooperative agreement with the Conservation Commission with regard to lake watersheds. The Conservation Commission may cooperate with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in providing land use inventory/assessment and stream monitoring portion of the clean lakes program. The Water Resources Board may enter into cooperative agreements with other federal, state and

local agencies as necessary. Any Phase II Clean Lakes projects which require watershed implementation of nonpoint source pollution control practices shall be carried out by the Conservation Commission.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1085.54, as amended by Section 326, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 (82 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1085.54), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1085.54 A. ~~All funds~~ Funds available in the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account shall first be used to assure maintenance of progress towards compliance with enforceable deadlines, goals, and requirements of the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Code, Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards, and Federal Clean Water Act. ~~Upon the determination by the Board that all enforceable requirements have been met by Oklahoma communities and all other eligible wastewater projects have been funded,~~ Funds in the account may also be used for the implementation of the nonpoint source management program pursuant to Section 1085.65 of this title.

B. The Board shall use the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account only as provided by the federal Water Quality Act of 1987 for the following purposes:

1. To make a loan to an eligible entity if:
 - a. the loan application, project and planning documents have been approved by the Board pursuant to Section 1085.58 of this title or the Oklahoma Conservation Commission pursuant to Section 1085.65 of this title,
 - b. the loan is made at or below market interest rates, including interest-free loans, at terms consistent with the federal Water Quality Act of 1987,
 - c. principal and interest payments will begin not later than one year after completion of any wastewater project and all loans will be fully amortized consistent with the federal Water Quality Act of 1987,

- d. the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account will be credited with all payments of principal of and interest on all loans,
- e. the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board the financial capability to assure sufficient revenues to pay debt service,
- f. the recipient of the loan establishes a dedicated source of revenue for payment of debt service for the loan, and
- g. the recipient agrees to maintain financial records in accordance with governmental accounting standards, to conduct an annual audit of the financial records relating to the treatment works, and to submit the audit report to the Board on a scheduled annual basis;

2. To buy or refinance eligible entity obligations at or below market rates if the eligible entity obligations were incurred in construction which began after March 7, 1985;

3. To guarantee or purchase insurance for eligible entities if the guarantee or insurance would improve access to market credit or reduce interest rates;

4. As a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal of and interest on any investment certificate issued by the Board. The proceeds of the sale of such investment certificates shall be deposited in the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account in compliance with applicable bond resolutions or indentures authorizing the sale;

5. To provide loan guarantees to similar revolving loan accounts or funds established by eligible entities;

6. To earn interest on accounts established under the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account;

7. To administer the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account pursuant to the provisions of Section 1085.51 et seq.

of this act title. All funds to be utilized for administrative costs from the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account shall be subject to annual designation by the State Legislature; and

8. For such other purpose or in such other manner, as is determined by the Board to be an appropriate use of the Wastewater Facility Construction Revolving Loan Account and which has been specifically approved by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the federal Water Quality Act of 1987.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1085.65, as amended by Section 334, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 (82 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1085.65), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1085.65 A. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall adopt rules to receive, process, and review loan applications for implementation of nonpoint source management programs as allowed by the federal Water Quality Act of 1987 for those activities subject to its jurisdiction as specified in the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act.

B. The rules shall require that to be eligible for financial assistance, the proposed project:

1. Meets or will meet a critical local or state need, as defined in the State Nonpoint Source Assessment and Management Report;

2. Is needed or will be needed to comply with the State Nonpoint Source Assessment and Management Report;

3. Is designed to prevent, reduce or halt the pollution of the waters of this state and comply with Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards; and

4. Is cost effective.

C. The Commission shall consult with and obtain comments of the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality prior to making a recommendation on all loan applications and programs

which may involve nonpoint sources subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality's comments shall be addressed in the recommendation or attached thereto.

D. Upon determination that the proposed project meets the minimum criteria, the Commission shall forward the application, plans and specifications and other documents to the Board, with a recommendation that a loan be made for the project.

E. The state revolving funds for the implementation of management practices to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution shall not be available until the promulgation of rules by the Conservation Commission which guide the use of those funds for the implementation of the most cost effective solutions where both point and nonpoint sources are known or identified as potential significant causes of a violation of water quality standards in a specific stream. Also, the state revolving funds for the reduction of nonpoint source pollution shall not be available until the Conservation Commission promulgates rules requiring implementation of corrective actions where a significant nonpoint source contributor fails to take corrective action.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY Section 6, Chapter 191, O.S.L. 1994 (82 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1085.76), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1085.76 The ~~Environmental Quality Board~~ Department of Environmental Quality shall prescribe such ~~rules~~ requirements as may be necessary for determining the eligibility and priority of entities for drinking water treatment projects in order to receive loans made pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and from the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Loan Account. At a minimum, such ~~rules~~ requirements shall:

1. Ensure the fair and equitable prioritization of entities eligible for loans made pursuant to the provisions of Section 1085.71 et seq. of this act title;

2. Be in conformance with applicable provisions of the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Code and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act;

3. Require that to be approved, an applicant needs or will need the drinking water treatment project loan to comply with rules adopted by the Environmental Quality Board pursuant to the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Code; and

4. Require the drinking water treatment project to:

- a. comply with minimum standards and requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act or any similar or successor statute,
- b. meet the Department's rules for drinking water and established environmental review criteria as provided for by applicable federal law, and
- c. meet any other consideration deemed necessary by the Department.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1501-103, as amended by Section 206, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993, and as renumbered by Section 359, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 (27A O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-1-103), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-1-103. As used in the Conservation District Act:

1. "District" or "conservation district" means a governmental subdivision of this state, and a public body corporate and politic, organized in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation District Act, for the purposes, with the powers, and subject to the restrictions hereinafter set forth-;

2. "Director" means a member of the governing body of a conservation district, elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation District Act-;

3. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Conservation Commission-;

4. "State" means the State of Oklahoma-; i

5. "Agency of this state" includes the government of this state and any subdivision, agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the government of this state-; i

6. "United States" or "agencies of the United States" includes the United States of America, and any department, agency or instrumentality of the federal government-; i

7. "Government" or "governmental" includes the government of this state, the government of the United States, and any subdivision, agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of either of them-; i

8. "Due notice" which shall be in conformance with the Administrative Procedures Act means notice published at least twice, with an interval of at least seven (7) days between the two publication dates, in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation within the district, or, if no such publication of general circulation be available, by posting at five conspicuous places within the district, such posting to include, where possible, posting at public places where it may be customary to post notices concerning county or municipal affairs generally. At any hearing held pursuant to such notice, at the time and place designated in such notice, adjournment may be made from time to time without the necessity of renewing such notice for such adjourned dates-; i

9. "District cooperator" means any person that has entered into a cooperative agreement with a conservation district for the purpose of protecting, conserving and practicing wise use of the renewable natural resources under his control-; i

10. "Renewable natural resources", "natural resources" or "resources" include land, soil, excess surface water, vegetation, trees, natural beauty, scenery and open space-; i

11. "Conservation" includes conservation, development, improvement, maintenance, preservation, protection and wise use of

land, water and related natural resources; the control and prevention of floodwater and sediment damages; and the disposal of excess surface waters-; i

12. "Cost/Share program" means the assumption by the state of a proportional share of the cost of installing conservation structures or management practices on lands for public and environmental benefits-; i

13. "Management practices" means a control method or combination of control methods that is determined to be the most effective and practicable means of preventing soil loss from erosion or reducing the amount of nonpoint source pollution from a given land use-; i

14. "Nonpoint source" shall have the same meaning as such word is defined by the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act-; i

15. "Pollution" shall have the same meaning as such word is defined by the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act-; i

16. "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is attributed either to nonpoint sources of pollution or natural background sources;

17. "Loading" means an amount of matter that is introduced into a receiving water;

18. "Loading capacity" means the greatest amount of loading that a water can receive without violating water quality standards;

19. "Nonpoint Source Working Group" means an advisory group established to provide input into the state's nonpoint source management and assessment program and is open to federal, state and local natural resource agencies and other interested groups;

20. "Watershed" means an area of land that drains to a given point;

21. "Blue Thumb Program" means a nonpoint source educational program emphasizing water quality education, including volunteer monitoring, for the citizens of the state;

22. "Soil science" means the science which is:

- a. the study of physical, chemical, and biological processes taking place in both naturally occurring and reconstructed unconsolidated material formed by the alteration of parent rock due to exposure at the earth's surface, and
- b. it includes sampling, measuring, identification, characterization, classification, and mapping of soil materials and migration of water solute, air and other gaseous components in the unsaturated portion of the earth; and

23. "Soil scientist" means a person who:

- a. has earned a baccalaureate or higher degree in a field of soil science from an institution of higher education which is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency, with a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours of undergraduate work in a field of biological, physical, or earth science with a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours of core soil science courses, and
- b. has a specific and continuous record of related and verifiable soil science work experience for two (2) years. Publications in a soil science publication or prior qualifications as an expert witness in administrative or judicial proceeding, hearing or trial shall be prima facie verification of experience related to soil science.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1501-205, as amended by Section 212, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993, and as renumbered by Section 359, Chapter 145, O.S.L. 1993 (27A O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-2-106), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-2-106. A. In addition to other powers and duties specified by law, the Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Offer the assistance as may be appropriate to the directors of conservation districts in the carrying out of any of their powers and programs and to:

- a. assist and guide districts in the preparation and carrying out of programs for resource conservation authorized under the Conservation District Act,
- b. review district programs,
- c. coordinate the programs of the several districts and resolve any conflicts in such programs, and
- d. facilitate, promote, assist, harmonize, coordinate and guide the resource conservation programs and activities of districts as they relate to other special purpose districts, counties and other public agencies-; i

2. Keep the directors of each of the several districts informed of the activities and experience of all other districts, and to facilitate an interchange of advice and experience between such districts and cooperation between them-; i

3. Review agreements, or forms of agreements, proposed to be entered into by districts with other districts or with any state, federal, or interstate, or other public or private agency, organization or individual, and advise the districts concerning such agreements or forms of agreements-; i

4. Secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and any of its agencies, and of agencies of this state, in the work of such districts and to accept donations, grants, gifts and contributions in money, services or otherwise from the United States or any of its agencies or from the state or any of its agencies in order to carry out the purposes of the Conservation District Act-; i

5. Disseminate information throughout the state concerning the activities and programs of the conservation districts and to make available information concerning the needs and the work of the conservation districts and Commission to the Governor, the Legislature, executive agencies of the government of this state, political subdivisions of this state, cooperating federal agencies and the general public-i

6. Serve along with conservation districts as the official state agencies for cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and carrying on conservation operations within the boundaries of conservation districts-i

7. Cooperate with and give such assistance as they deem necessary and proper to conservancy districts, watershed associations and other special purpose districts in the State of Oklahoma for the purpose of cooperating with the United States through the Secretary of Agriculture in the furtherance of conservation pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended-i

8. Recommend the inclusion in annual and longer term budgets and appropriation legislation of the State of Oklahoma of funds necessary for appropriation by the Legislature to finance the activities of the Commission and the conservation districts and to:

- a. administer the provisions of the Conservation District Act hereafter enacted by the Legislature appropriating funds for expenditure in connection with the activities of conservation districts,
- b. distribute to conservation districts funds, equipment, supplies and services received by the Commission for that purpose from any source, subject to such conditions as shall be made applicable thereto in any

state or federal statute or local ordinance making available such funds, property or services,

- c. issue regulations establishing guidelines and suitable controls to govern the use by conservation districts of such funds, property and services; and to review all budgets, administrative procedures and operations of such districts and advise the districts concerning their conformance with applicable laws and regulations-; i

9. Enlist the cooperation and collaboration of state, federal, regional, interstate, local, public and private agencies with the conservation districts and to facilitate arrangements under which the conservation districts may serve county governing bodies and other agencies as their local operating agencies in the administration of any activity concerned with the conservation of renewable natural resources-; i

10. Pursuant to procedures developed mutually by the Commission and federal, state and local agencies that are authorized to plan or administer activities significantly affecting the conservation of renewable natural resources, receive from such agencies for review and comment suitable descriptions of their plans, programs and activities for purposes of coordination with district conservation programs and to arrange for and participate in conferences necessary to avoid conflict among such plans and programs, to call attention to omissions and to avoid duplication of effort-; i

11. Compile information and make studies, summaries and analyses of district programs in relation to each other and to other resource conservation programs on a statewide basis-; i

12. Except as otherwise assigned by law, carry out the policies of this state in programs at the state level for the conservation of the renewable natural resources of this state and represent the state in matters affecting such resources-; i

13. Assist conservation districts in obtaining legal services from state and local legal officers-; i

14. Require annual reports from conservation districts, the form and content of which shall be developed by the Commission in consultation with the district directors-; i

15. Establish by regulations, with the assistance and advice of the State Auditor and Inspector, adequate and reasonably uniform accounting and auditing procedures which shall be used by conservation districts-; i

16. Conduct workshops for district directors to instruct them on the subjects of district finances, the Conservation District Law and related laws, and their duties and responsibilities as directors-; i

17. Assist and supervise districts in carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the Oklahoma laws-; i

18. Have power, by administrative order, upon the written request of the board of directors of the conservation district or districts involved, with a showing that such request has been approved by a majority vote of the members of each of the boards involved, to:

- (a) transfer lands from one district established under the provisions of the Conservation District Act to another,
- (b) divide a single district into two or more districts, each of which shall thereafter operate as a separate district under the provisions of the Conservation District Act, and
- (c) consolidate two or more districts established under the provisions of the Conservation District Act, which consolidated area shall operate thereafter as a single district under the provisions of the Conservation District Act-; i

19. Except as otherwise provided by law, act as the management agency having jurisdiction over and responsibility for directing nonpoint source pollution prevention programs outside the jurisdiction or control of cities or towns in Oklahoma. The Commission, otherwise, shall be responsible for all identified nonpoint source categories except silviculture, urban storm water runoff and industrial runoff-;

20. Administer a cost/share program which would provide state monies to local districts for the purpose of carrying out conservation or management practices on the land to benefit the public through the prevention of soil erosion and nonpoint source pollution. ~~The Commission is not authorized to implement mandatory compliance with management practices to abate agricultural nonpoint source pollution.~~ and general resource enhancement;

21. Assume responsibility for planning watershed based nonpoint source pollution control activities, including the development and implementation of conservation plans for the improvement or protection of the resources of the state;

22. Provide assistance to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board on lake projects through stream and river monitoring, assessing watershed activities impacting lake water quality and assisting in the development of watershed management plan;

23. Maintain the activities of the state's Nonpoint Source Working Group;

24. Develop nonpoint source load allocations for pollutants found in priority watersheds and provide the information to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for use in determining total acceptable loads for those pollutants in receiving waters of priority watersheds;

25. Prepare, revise and review Oklahoma's Nonpoint Source Management Program and Nonpoint Source Assessment Report in consultation with other state environmental and natural resource

agencies and compile a comprehensive assessment for the state every five (5) years. Such management program and assessment report shall be distributed to the Governor, the Secretary of Environment, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

26. Manage under the direction of the Office of the Secretary of Environment, the development of the state's nonpoint source water quality monitoring strategy in consultation with other environmental agencies;

27. Administer a statewide water quality education and volunteer program known as the "Blue Thumb Program";

28. Enter into agreements or contracts for services with any of the substate planning districts recognized by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce;

~~22.~~ 29. Cooperate with the federal government, or any agency thereof, to participate in and coordinate with federal programs that will yield additional federal funds to the state for programs within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. This participation shall be subject to the availability of state funds; and

~~23.~~ 30. Implement pilot projects and programs, subject to the availability of funds, that will demonstrate the latest technologies and applications in conservation programs that may provide direct or residual benefits to conservation practices in the state.

B. Nothing in this act shall take away any of the present duties or responsibilities delegated by law or constitution to other environmental agencies.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 1996.

SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

