

OKLAHOMA COMMENTS  
DRAFT ILLINOIS RIVER GIS DATABASE

*September 22, 2010*

1. The “database” is a simple collection of many things. It’s not searchable, not organized under a GIS display program, and the accuracy of the various coverages is not checked (or are we supposed to check it for them or accuracy checking is not part of the workplan?).
2. There is not much metadata in the database for the coverages. While not necessarily a good practice, that may not be a problem if the database is intended only for internal use. The coverages are probably all good data. However, as a GIS “database”, without good and detailed metadata, it won’t be able to stand any court scrutiny or even a skeptical public aided by their consultants.
3. Not all data downloaded by Aqua Terra, as cited in the report, were included in the database (e.g., USDA crop coverages and Oklahoma aerial photos). However, it would be very easy to incorporate them into the “database” if needed.
4. These are all existing data. They did not produce any GIS layers, such as newer landuse coverage. In the report they did talk about using our aerial photos to produce landuse updates, but the language was noncommittal.
5. The SWAT point sources coverage showed only two facilities in Oklahoma: Tahlequah and Stillwell. Westville (OK0028126) was left out.
6. The GIS coverage for Poultry Feeding Operations (PFOs) was derived from the SWAT modeling exercise. The data base only provides the locations and dimensions of poultry houses in the watershed. No information regarding owners/operators, numbers and types chickens, etc. was included. ODAFF can provide GIS data bases with more details for CAFOs, PFOs and Poultry Waste Application sites located in the State, which may better serve the TMDL modeling process.
7. The data does not include any information on existing best management practices that have been implemented. OCC can provide GIS data with respect to BMPs that have been implemented through Oklahoma nonpoint source pollution projects. Without this data, it will be difficult to accurately estimate further load reductions that could be achieved through additional NPS work. OCC has already provided water quality data that can be used to estimate performance of these BMPs, but that data is less useful outside of the context of timing and extent of BMP application.