

Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	08/31/2024	
Media Program:	Water	
Regulatory Program(s)	Clean Water Act – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Brine)	
Company Name:	City of Pawhuska	
Facility Name:	Pawhuska Water & Light Plant	
Facility Physical Location:	36.669503, -96.347946	
(city, state, zip code)	Pawhuska, OK 74056	
Mailing address:	118 W Main	
(city, state, zip code)	Pawhuska, OK, 74056	
County/Parish:	Osage County	
Facility Phone Number	580-227-7557	
Facility Contact:	Jerry Eubanks	580-227-7557
	jeubanks@pawhuska.org	
FRS Number:	n/a	
Identification/Permit Number:	OKU002210	
Media Identifier Number:	n/a	
NAICS:	211111	
SIC:	1311	
Personnel participating in inspection:		
Matthew Allen	EPA Region 6 ECDW	Inspector
Mike Perrier	BIA Field Inspector	Inspector
Jerry Eubanks	City of Pawhuska	City Manager
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date		
	Matthew Allen	Date
Supervisor Signature/Date		
	Jeanne Eckhart	Date

Section I – INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA Region 6 inspector Matthew Allen arrived at the Pawhuska Water & Light Plant (OKU002210) at 6:30 PM on 8/31/2024 for an unannounced inspection. EPA inspector met with Jerry Eubanks (city manager) and Mike Perrier (BIA) inspector. This was an EPA inspection in response to a spill complaint and subsequent spill report (NRC #1409613), which was generated by EPA Region 6. The inspection was conducted under the authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to ensure compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. No other local, state, tribal or federal partners were present at the time of the inspection.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

EPA conducted an inspection at the City of Pawhuska Water & Light plant and Bird Creek.

Section II - OBSERVATIONS

Inspector observed sheen on Bird Creek immediately below the City of Pawhuska's dam which was located approximately 30 yards west of the city water & light plant (GPS: 36.669503, -96.347946). The banks of the creek were inaccessible due to steep terrain and ongoing rainfall at the time of the inspection. Inspector noted the sheen was not present on the upstream side of the dam at the time of the inspection.

Inspector observed sheen and small amounts of oil beginning to pool on the surface of Bird Creek at the low water crossing located at 36.661747, -96.345047. Inspector also observed impacted vegetation approximately 30 yards downstream from the low water crossing. The weather was overcast/rainy, and it was too dark to obtain photos identifying the sheen and spill impacts at the time of the inspection. BIA inspector, Mike Perrier provided photos and video of the sheen from earlier in the afternoon which were reviewed by the EPA inspector during the inspection.

Inspector observed sheen at the road bridge located at 36.659350, -96.331842. This was the lowermost location where sheen was observed during the inspection.

At the time of the inspection, the source of the contamination was unknown, and it became dark during the inspection which prevented continued investigation. There were no containment measures being taken at the time of the inspection.

At the time of the inspection, spill impacts were downstream from the drinking water intake for the city of Pawhuska.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

8/31/2024

Inspector called the NRC Spill Hotline and made a spill report at the end of the inspection.

8/31/2024

Inspector called the Tulsa based EPA OSC (Jennifer Polk) and sent her a message notifying of possible oil/fuel spilled into Bird Creek.

8/31/2024

EPA inspector called and messaged ODEQ inspector Mark Bersche of the spill impacts into Bird Creek.

8/31/2024

Inspector notified Craig Walker, director of the Osage Nation Department of Natural Resources.

09/01/2024

Inspector conducted a follow-up phone call with BIA inspector, Mike stated city employees had identified where the contamination was entering Bird Creek the morning of 9/01/2024.

9/03/2024

Inspector conducted a follow-up phone call with Jerry Eubanks on 9/03/2024 for a status update.

9/03/2024

Inspector conducted a site visit to speak with Jerry Eubanks on 9/03/2024.

9/03/2024

Inspector received a call from Jerry Eubanks stating city employees had identified a leak in a cooling tower line that had possibly migrated the spilled substance into Bird Creek. City employees had also installed 3 oil absorbent boom locations on Bird Creek.

9/03/2024

EPA inspector conducted a follow-up call with ODEQ inspector Mark Bersche. ODEQ inspector stated the city employees would install a 4th containment/absorbent boom location on Bird Creek and monitor the booms and creek for spill impacts daily.

9/05/2024

Inspector received a call from USFWS, Ecological Services Field Office inspector based out of the Tulsa, OK office. EPA inspector provided a status update to the USFWS inspector.

Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report.