

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT
TITLE 35. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY
CHAPTER 56. EMERGENCY DROUGHT COMMITTEE

(A) PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

The purpose of these new rules is to establish clear guidance, procedures, goals, and processes for the Emergency Drought Committee (EDC) created under 27A O.S. § 2251. These rules establish criteria for determining drought conditions that prompt the Secretary of Agriculture to convene an EDC meeting, initiating emergency drought assistance programs, scheduling and conducting meetings of the EDC, reviewing program actions, and presenting final reports. These rules ensure accountability for members of the EDC and effectiveness of the EDC programs to benefit Oklahomans in drought conditions. Additionally, these rules clarify that the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) is the primary agency responsible for ensuring that the EDC is compliant with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act.

(B) CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO MOST LIKELY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULE AND ANY INFORMATION ON COST IMPACTS RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY FROM ANY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITIES:

These rules have been developed to clarify the operations of the Emergency Drought Committee, which was created to address the needs of producers and landowners experiencing the negative impacts of drought. These rules apply only to members of the EDC and clarify how meetings may be called by the Secretary of Agriculture, and other requirements for the EDC and the State agency that implements programs utilizing Emergency Drought Relief funding. These rules will most likely only affect State agency employees and members of the EDC. ODAFF does not foresee any adverse cost impacts to the agency, or any implementing agency of EDC programs, from private or public entities, nor for individuals participating in EDC programs, projects, and grants.

(C) PERSONS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED RULE:

The new rules will benefit producers and landowners that are interested in EDC programs and funding to address the negative impacts of drought.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE UPON AFFECTED CLASSES OF PERSONS:

The proposed rules are expected to have a positive impact. The rules benefit producers, landowners, State agency employees, and members of the EDC by clarifying operations of the EDC and establishing a primary agency, promoting efficient operations of the EDC.

(E) PROBABLE COST AND BENEFITS TO AGENCY; SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

No additional costs to the agency are anticipated by the new rules.

(F) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION WILL HAVE ANY ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR REQUIRE THEIR COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTING OR ENFORCING THE PROPOSED RULE:**

No economic impact on any political subdivision or required cooperation in implementation and enforcement is expected as a result of this proposed rule.

(G) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED RULE WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS AS PROVIDED BY THE OKLAHOMA SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT:**

Participation in any Emergency Drought Relief programs are voluntary, and implementation of the proposed rules most likely only affects state agency employees and members of the EDC. Therefore, no adverse effects or impacts on small businesses are anticipated.

(H) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE ARE LESS COSTLY METHODS OR NON-REGULATORY METHODS FOR ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULES:**

The purpose of the proposed rules is to clarify the operations of the EDC, which results in no cost. Non-regulatory methods such as non-regulatory guidance lack the permanence needed to guide the statutorily mandated Committee, especially in light of potential personnel changes. These rules allow for better continuation through personnel changes with no cost, non-restrictive, and limited regulation.

(I) **DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED RULE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

The proposed rules will positively affect public health, safety, and the environment by clarifying the operations of the EDC, therefore making future programs to distribute Emergency Drought Relief funding more efficient.

(J) **DETERMINATION OF ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

No detrimental effect on public health, safety, or the environment is anticipated by the adoption of these new rules.

(K) **DATE RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED:**

This rule impact statement was prepared on September 19, 2025.