

Rural water departments in **Oklahoma** require a copy of the **DEQ Form 641-576S/641-576AS (On-Site Sewage Treatment System Inspection Report)** when someone applies for **new water service** (especially for new construction) because of how the state regulates **onsite sewage/septic systems** and protects **public health and water quality**. Here's why this requirement exists:

## 1. DEQ Regulates On-Site Sewage Systems

The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** has authority under **Title 252 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code, Chapter 641** to regulate **individual and small public on-site sewage treatment systems (septic systems)**. These rules are meant to ensure sewage is properly treated and does not contaminate groundwater or drinking water sources. [Welcome to Oklahoma's Official Web Site](#)

## 2. The 641-576S / 641-576AS Form Documents Compliance

The **Form 641-576S or 641-576AS** is a **septic system inspection or completion report** that documents that an on-site sewage treatment system was installed or inspected in compliance with DEQ rules. It typically includes information like location, installation details, and confirmation that the system meets regulatory requirements. [Environmental Quality Department](#)

## 3. Water Utilities Need to Protect Their System and Customers

Rural water districts require this DEQ form because:

- **Public health and safety:** A failed or improperly installed septic system can negatively impact soil and groundwater, which in rural areas may be close to **drinking water lines or wells** supplied by the water district.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Water suppliers are often required to ensure that new service connections do not pose a risk to the water system or violate state regulatory standards.
- **Prevent contamination of distribution systems:** Improper sewage systems can lead to contamination of shared groundwater or surface water that could interface with water sources.

So by requiring proof that the onsite sewage system has been inspected and approved by DEQ (via the 641-576 form), the water district is ensuring that the property's wastewater system meets state environmental and public-health standards before providing potable water. This helps protect both the customer and the water system from health hazards and potential regulatory violations.

## 4. Local Rural Water District Rules Reflect These Standards

Many rural water districts' **service application forms explicitly list a DEQ septic system report as a requirement** for final water meter placement or activation. For example, one water district's application states the customer must provide a completed 641-576A/S report within 30 days of final septic inspection, and failure to do so *may lead to disruption of water service*.

## Summary

In short, rural water utilities require the DEQ 641-576S/AS form when someone applies for a new water service to:

- Confirm that a **required septic system is properly installed and inspected by DEQ standards.**
- Protect **drinking water quality** and **public health.**
- Comply with **Oklahoma DEQ environmental regulations** on onsite sewage treatment. These forms serve as official documentation that the property's wastewater system meets state safety and environmental requirements before water service is supplied