

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2471
Version:	CS
Request No.:	2151
Author:	Sen. McCortney
Date:	04/08/2019

Committee Substitute (CS)

The CS for HB 2471 establishes a legislative moratorium on the following actions by regulatory agencies. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting of any discharge from a subject mine to streams fed or supported by water emanating from sensitive sole source groundwater basins or subbasins, excepting cases wherein the DEQ issues a permit to correct compliance issues; on the Oklahoma Department of Mines as it relates to issuing or amending permits to subject mines; and on the Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) from issuing, allocating, or recognizing any offset of the consumptive use of water of subject mines.

The moratorium shall remain in effect until the DEQ, Department of Mines, and Oklahoma Water Resources Board promulgate final rules to provide for effective interagency consultation and coordination of activities related to the regulation of mines. The moratoria shall also remain in effect on OWRB permits until the OWRB, in coordination with the DEQ, Department of Mines, and East Central University and in cooperation with federal and tribal governmental agencies completes the Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation of Hydrologic Trends for the Eastern Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, SouthCentral Oklahoma and promulgates rules to implement the provisions of the studies.

Subject mines are defined in the measure as mines that overlie a sensitive sole source groundwater basin or subbasin, have not engaged in the permitted extraction of resources, is not permitted to operate for a period of more than five years, or the operation of which will not result in more than five acre feet per year of groundwater emanating from a sensitive sole source groundwater basin or subbasin

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor