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SURVEY DIVISION

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Oklahoma State Highway Dept.

Date October 25, 1973

To Mr Richard L Shephard, Survey Engineer

From L E Higginbotham, Location Engineer

Subject Highwater Report

This information compiled at the request of Project Engineer A W Ziegelgruber.

Apparent rainfall Wednesday afternoon and night Oct. 10, 1973 and early Thursday morning Oct. 11, 1973 of 15" / in the southern watershed, 10" / in the northern watershed along with 5" / in the western watershed created record flood conditions on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. The flood area begins at the western edge of Grant County and extends east to the Arkansas River where the Salt Fork empties into it. At this point the Arkansas River basin contained most of the flood water but still rose to almost record level at Ralston.

At three points in the Salt Fork basin a comparison to previous Flood (1923) record, at Jefferson and Pond Creek, Lamont, and Tonkawa this flood was 2.5' over recorded highwater marks.

Many county roads are washed out, bridges destroyed or damaged to varying degree. The Grant County commissioner and road crews will be a year repairing all areas.

The Oklahoma Highway Department suffered major damage to I-35, lesser damage to US 177 but still causing closure due to washouts. Other highways in area US 60, 64, 77, SH 11, 74 and 156 all sustained minor damage.

Even at this extensive amount of road and highway damage the personal property losses have been much heavier. Many homes and improvement, fences and fields are covered with silt and debris, in other areas these are washed away, taking all topsoil. Many animals and crops were lost due to drowning and mud. Some ranchers will be forced to sell livestock because of loss of winter pastures or will have to begin feeding. Small grains can be replanted but winter pastures cannot grow enough to sustain cattle before frost. Construction material, barb wire, grain seed, hay and other items will be in short supply temporarily.

In conjunction with this letter 77 SD Form No. 16 are being submitted showing highwater check points throughout Grant, Kay, Noble, Osage and Pawnee Counties.

Leroy E. Higginbotham
 Leroy E Higginbotham
 Location Engineer

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