The State of Oklahoma
A Jurisdictional Puzzle

J. Trevor Hammons
Supervising Attorney, ECLS
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Justice Liaison
Tribal Liaison
OKLAHOMA-Current Day
OKLAHOMA-1802
OKLAHOMA 1888
OKLAHOMA 1889-1907
OKLAHOMA 2018?
What is Tar Creek?

- Zinc and Lead Ore deposits discovered in 1891.
- Located in Ottawa County Oklahoma.
- [https://www.google.com/maps/@36.8866382,-94.7233262,133617m/data=!3m1!1e3](https://www.google.com/maps/@36.8866382,-94.7233262,133617m/data=!3m1!1e3)
- Added to NPL in 1981.
Tar Creek
Clean Up

- OU 1- surface water/groundwater (diking and diversion structures to stop acid mine water discharge) Wells capped.
- OU 2- Contaminated soils. 1994 HIS test-35 percent of Indian children had concentrations of lead exceeding 10 micrograms per deciliter.
- OU 3- Eagle Pitcher Office Complex cleanup
- OU 4- Chat Piles
Tar Creek

- Lead Impacted Communities Relocation Assistance Trust – based upon subsidence.
Natural Resource Damages

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Natural Resource - land, fish, biota, air, drinking water, etc.
- Resource must belong to, be managed by, held in trust by, appertain to or otherwise be controlled by the United States, any state, or an Indian Tribe
Tar Creek Trustee Council

Secretary of Energy and Environment is the Trustee for the State of Oklahoma. Attorney General serves as counsel.