

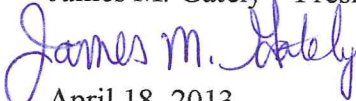
The Association for Beaver Lake Environment (ABLE) would like to make the following comments in regard to Arkansas Ambient Water Quality Standards and, especially, to reg. 2.509, Nutrients part B "Site Specific Nutrient Standards".

In particular, ABLE would like to have 8 parts/billion for chlorophyll and 1.1 meters for Secchi Transparency as the standard for Beaver Lake. These standards are currently met for Beaver Lake and we do not want levels of water quality decreased. These standards are a result of a workgroup who set up a protocol establishing scientifically based nutrient standards for Arkansas lakes as required by EPA requirements. Beaver Lake was selected as the pilot lake because of the many years of collecting data there.

We always hear that decisions must be made on the basis of "sound science". We have that "sound science" given in the 2008 report by the Beaver Lake Workgroup that gives the proposed standards for Beaver Lake. The wealth of data was reviewed by many whose backgrounds reflect expertise from many perspectives in developing these proposed standards. This workgroup included Dr. Reed Green, USGS; Dr. Ralph Davis, U.of A.; Dr. Robert Morgan, Beaver Water District; Dr. Brian Haggard, Arkansas Water Resources Center; Dr. Kent Thornton, FTN.Inc.; Dr. Joe Nix, Quachita Baptist University; as well as Steve Filipek, AGFC; Ellen McNulty, ADEQ at that time; Alan Fortenberry, CEO, Beaver Water District; among others. Because of such experience and knowledge of this group, I am certainly inclined to accept their proposed standards for Beaver Lake and propose that you do the same.

The importance of water quality for Beaver Lake cannot be overemphasized! It is the water supply for Northwest Arkansas, the economic engine of the region, and contributes to the area's quality of life due to clean water for its recreational activities. Therefore, ABLE requests that Regulation 2 is used to maintain the highest water quality standards for Beaver Lake and for Arkansas water in general.

James M. Gately – President of the Association for Beaver Lake Environment


April 18, 2013

Submitted at
4-18-13 Reg 2
hearing at
Fayetteville
- DCS