

# Water Quality Standards for Arkansas Rivers and Streams

Water quality standards set by ADEQ should protect the states waterways. Most of Arkansas's waterways either already fail or are falling behind. TDS and sediment transport are issues that desperately need to be addressed .

These standards were studied years ago and it was decided that this would be what it would take to protect our waterways. Now that we are concerned about water quality and we want to come up to current standards, we are only trying to achieve standards that were set a mere thirty years ago. These standards were set during most of our lifetimes - these are not standards that were pre-whiteman. For middle- aged Americans to expect for their children, the same lifestyle that they grew up with is not too much to ask from our government.

Though TDS and sediment transport are issues that are not being addressed, WET chemistry (whole effluent toxicity) should be addressed also as it is approaching levels that are near the limit.

Why does our state government allow these numbers to continually build by creating more standards that drive the numbers up? My children have grown up healthy drinking well water that contains no fluoride or chloride. Both of these elements have been proven to be endocrine disrupters . People don't want this in their drinking water anymore but we spend thousands of dollars putting it in domestic drinking water and then we spend thousands of dollars taking it out at the sewage treatment plant - why should we have it? Fluoride in drinking water has taken Carroll county backwards in several elections.

Why is it so difficult for a property owner to repair a cut bank? To be issued a permit, the land owner must go through too many government entities . They have a short time to complete a very expensive project and the government is just in the way - it's like government trips over it's own feet.

When the Nature Conservancy acquired land in Madison county, a severe cut bank was repaired in a few weeks. This proves that it can be done. We feel the Kings river is filling up with gravel, but gravel is just a small percentage of the bank that gets sloughed off during flood events. The major portion of the bank is sand which gets carried to Table Rock lake. This is an issue that our neighbors to the north have already noticed. How long will it take us to address this issue?

We should remember that industry must produce profit and are not paid to produce clean water. Industry must be held responsible for it's actions just as citizens are responsible for their actions. As parents we teach our children that they cleanup their own messes. We should uphold the standards that we are currently not upholding to truly protect our waterways and the future of our state.

Ray Warren  
108CR9051  
Green Forest, AR 72638