

P.O. Box 61
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72654



Reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us

Mr. Doug Szenher
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Public Outreach and Assistance Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Mr. Szenher:

RE: Docket #14-004-R

Friends (FNFWR) is an all-volunteer watershed organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Middle Section of the White including its tributaries. Our focus is five counties below Bull Shoals and Norfork Dams and continues for five counties; Baxter, Marion, Stone, Izard and Independence. The Buffalo National River enters this watershed at Buffalo Point in lower Baxter County.

Importance of involvement of the vested public citizen

Stewardship of our rivers and watersheds speaks to hearts of a diverse population. Collectively we participate in numerous organizations, collaborating on goals to protect, preserve and enhance our rivers and streams. We are land owners, naturalists, gardeners, farmers, birders, fishers and guides, resort owners and more...with children and grandchildren under our tutelage to care for the unique relationship of land and water in the Ozarks.

Friends joins collaborative partners, non-governmental organizations and agencies in the challenge to inform and involve this citizenry in timely opportunities to participate in actions that affect the land, our lives and livelihood. Among these groups are the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, North Arkansas Fly Fishers, the Arkansas Conservation Coalition and others.

Friends of the Rivers supports the ADEQ proposed changes and specifically endorses the comments submitted by the National Park Service and the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance.

- language under 6.207(A) specifying that "written and published notification would be issued no more than 30 days prior to submission of the NOI"
- that the Arkansas Dept. of Health be included in the list of entities to be notified
- that where a facility is to be located in the watershed of a national park the National Park Service be notified

In addition, with the goal to notify public citizens and stewards of our waters when permitting is being sought, we ask your consideration of an amendment to the proposed rulemaking as follows:

6.207(A) Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers requests an amendment to the proposed rulemaking to add the following text:

To provide *email* notice to persons who join a list serve requesting receipt of such notices. For instance a listserv such as WP-PendingNOIDaily@listserv.adeq.state.ar.us>

We concur with our friends at the National Park Service, and the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance that these amendments will better serve the public, private landowners, NGOs and the State and Federal lands within the State of Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Jane E. Darr

Jane E. Darr
President
242 Wheatstone Place
Cotter, AR 72626

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers is an Arkansas 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to creating an ongoing dialogue where individuals, groups, and government agencies can work together to conserve, restore and enhance these beautiful rivers