

**Charles J. Bitting**  
**HC 73 Box 182A**  
**Marble Falls, AR 72648**

September 18, 2015

Katherine McWilliams  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Ms. McWilliams:

I am a resident of Newton County, Arkansas. I live on the Little Buffalo River and can smell hog waste from C&H Hog Farm, Inc. at my farm with some regularity. I request a public hearing on the proposal to issue permit 3540-WR-7 to EC Farms for land application of waste from C&H Hog Farm, Inc., henceforth referred to as C&H in this letter. I request this hearing for several reasons.

1. EC farms is proposing to take waste from C&H, apparently under Regulation 5.601, and appears to be essentially a subsidiary of C&H. There is enough controversy about the permitting and operation of C&H to require a public hearing.
2. The Permit for EC Farms was transferred from C&C Hog Barns (Permit 3540-WR-5). In my opinion, Permit 3540-WR-5 should have been voided by ADEQ as the waste storage ponds were certified closed by NRCS according to Regulation 5.701 on March 14, 2014 in a letter; and again by telephone in April of 2014 according to ADEQ records.
3. Furthermore, C&C did not submit their annual report for 2013 or 2014 as required under Regulation 5.407(E). It seems to me that this would invalidate their permit. Such apparently capricious irregularities in enforcing permits can only be expected to raise the public's interest in this facility.
4. Nearly 300 acres of the waste application fields are on karst in the already highly impacted Big Creek watershed according to Arkansas Geological Survey maps for Deer and Mt. Judea quadrangles. Spreading out the waste from C&H onto these fields, which are mostly close to C&H will not reduce the impact to the already impaired water quality of Big Creek. As wastes applied to karst can rapidly infiltrate into the karst groundwater and flow unabated to springs on Big Creek and the Buffalo River, I suggest ADEQ needs to conduct a formal and scientifically based Antidegradation Review prior to issuing this permit.
5. A number of county residents still rely upon karst springs for their domestic water. Pollution of groundwater in the karst system puts their health in jeopardy.
6. The "Notice of Application" for the newspaper is very misleading. It claims the sites under consideration are located in Section 34, Township 15 North-Range 21 West (T15N-R21W). Actually, it appears from the NOI that this is the location of the depopulated hog barns and the closed waste storage ponds, not the waste disposal fields which are located in several townships and sections in the Big Creek, Little Buffalo River, and Big Piney watersheds. I expect a more thoughtful and transparent announcement from the State agency implementing the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.
  - The fields are located in four different townships: T13N-R20W, T14N-R21W, T15N-R20W, and T15N-R21W.

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- Nearly 80 acres in the Shop Creek watershed, 12 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC12) 110100050101.
- Almost 25 acres in the Headwaters of the Little Buffalo River, HUC12 110100050102.
- Over 475 acres in the Left Fork of Big Creek, HUC12 11010005030.
- Ten acres in the watershed of Hurricane Creek and the Big Piney, HUC12 111102020604.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing back from you in the affirmative.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Bitting

cc: Arkansas Health Department  
Gordon Watkins, President, Buffalo River Watershed Alliance  
Becky Keogh, Director, ADEQ  
Chris Gardner, APC&E Commissioner  
Miles Goggans, APC&E Commissioner  
John Chamberlin, APC&E Commissioner  
Joseph Bates, Deputy Director, ADH and APCE Commissioner  
Lawrence Bengal, Director AOGC and APCE Commissioner  
Ricky Chastain, Deputy Director AGFC and APC&E Commissioner  
Robert Reynolds, APC&E Commissioner  
Ann Henry, Chair APCE Commission  
Joe Fox, State Forester and APC&E Commissioner  
Wesley Stites, APC&E Commissioner  
Bekki White, State Geologist and APC&E Commissioner  
Randy Young, Director ANRC and APC&E Commissioner  
Swan Moss, Jr. APC&E Commissioner

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