In 2012 the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality quickly and quietly issued a permit to allow C & H Hog Farm to build a facility on the Buffalo River watershed. C & H is now applying for a new state permit which would supercede a federal permit that required regular review and a five year expiration. The state permit requires no review and no expiration and would add an additional 599 acres to the spray area. Research has shown that Big Creek is already showing higher levels of nitrates downstream from the C & H fields than above.

In fact, the original permit was improperly and hastily approved. In addition, this hog farm poses a serious threat of pollution to the Buffalo River. For these reasons, I request that ADEQ to deny the new permit. The Buffalo River is our country’s first National River, beloved by many of us in Arkansas. Please do all you can to protect our river and prevent the issuance of the permit.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Carol Joan Patterson