

Re: 5264-W Permit to spray hog waste in Newton County by C & H Farms

March 2, 2017

Please do not allow 5264-W sought by C & H Farms which would allow spraying hog waste around Newton County. I live here. I do not want to smell it. I do not want it polluting the Buffalo River and Big Creek as I like to canoe there. The Buffalo was protected as a free flowing river because it's the last river like this. It's protected. It's as simple as that. Anyone can understand that logic. Why is it no longer being protected? Isn't that ADEQ's job to protect it? Instead they approved the hog farm, and now to consider more extensive spraying shows that they might continue to not protect it.

Recently I had a houseguest who canoed Big Creek with me. He sells equipment for CAFO's in South America through a company in Denmark. He could not believe that this hog farm was situated near a protected park. He said in his country a confined animal operation would not be built near a national park used by tourists from around the world. He explained that for CAFO'S in Peru, if population growth moves close , it is shut down and moved.

Why not just admit a wrong was done and shut it down and move it? The farm could have easily be located elsewhere. It was a real slap in the face to pick a spot near a protected river. This certainly 'test's' the law and the rivers protections were ignored. Apparently now it's OK to pollute a national river where water can quickly and easily drain down Big Creek to the river. But to now consider adding the ability to spread it all all over the county instead, that is compounding one wrong into two wrongs.

When the park was created there used to be protections in place against polluting the water, but somehow they were ignored or went defunct . The National Park didn't even know about the Hog Farm being built until it was already half finished. There was a reason notice of this farm was so buried that not one public comment was received. Yet thousands upon thousands of comments against it have been received since.

Once there are spills, which are inevitable, I predict the government won't pay for a clean up as this region is remote. But really, let's think ahead, where are the rules in place that would require C & H to pay a surety bond to pay for any spills incurred? Insurance for this should be factored into their farm's operating costs. This CAFO is like a city of 30,000 people, which by law would need a sewage treatment plant. A city can't just put it in lagoons and spray it on fields. Please, just shut down or move this farm, and if you do please ***DON'T ALLOW FIELD SPRAYING OF PIG SLUDGE IN THE BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED REGION.***

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5264-W-Hoa WASTE - due by 3/7  
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