

From: [Nancy Baxter](mailto:Nancy.Baxter@arkansas.gov)
To: robert.moery@governor.arkansas.gov
Cc: [Water Draft Permit Comment](#); buffalowatershed@gmail.com
Subject: Buffalo National River
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:14:25 PM

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I am writing on behalf of the millions of Arkansans and visitors to our beautiful state who want to protect and preserve the health of our wonderful Buffalo River.

Your predecessor says his biggest regret as governor was issuing the permit for the C&H factory farm CAFO near Mt. Judea. I went to a meeting of the ADEQ just after its head claimed to know nothing about the permit until after it had been issued; it was clear to me that she was completely unconcerned about the issue and was not about to do anything to correct this terrible environmental debacle. Since then, the ADEQ has done nothing to correct the situation or to remove this blot on our landscape. Whose interests are they protecting???

Now you are considering renewing the permit permanently, despite considerable scientific evidence that this CAFO is an environmental hazard in so many ways. The original C&H permit was improperly and hastily approved (to the profit of very few, including Cargill, which is now owned by a Brazilian company!) with no significant notice to the public, and now you and the commission are about to make a decision before a critical environmental report is due on March 24. Why is the deadline for public comment March 17? We are about to be railroaded yet again, it appears.

There are so many reasons for denying this permanent permit. Changes in eliminating pollution from the factory's waste source have not been proposed or achieved. The only significant change is to add ANOTHER 599 acres on which to spread even MORE hog waste, potentially worsening existing problems, and INCREASE the number of hogs allowed.

Scientific evidence proves beyond doubt that the farm is situated on karst limestone, which is so highly porous that any pollution travels quickly to the water table beneath the area and into local streams including Big Creek and the Buffalo River. Data already collected by the Big Creek Research & Extension Team shows that nitrate levels are consistently higher in Big Creek downstream from the C&H fields; the National Park Service, with concurrence of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, has requested that Big Creek be declared impaired due to low dissolved oxygen levels because of nutrient overloading. A recent report by the U.S. Geological Survey also confirmed low levels in Big Creek. But the ADEQ refuses to acknowledge these findings. Whose pocket is being lined in order for this commission, which purportedly represents the interests of all Arkansans--who are among the most dedicated outdoorsmen and women anywhere, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, and otherwise enjoying the nation's first protected national river--to deny these realities, and the inevitable disaster that must occur should an extreme storm or other event result in millions of gallons of hog waste overflowing into the surrounding area and into local streams?

No adequate environmental study was ever performed before the original permit was issued, and still has not been done despite inordinate environmental risks that will only increase if even more hogs and more hog waste are allowed by the

permanent permit.

PLEASE PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT and the beautiful Buffalo River! Once it is contaminated, it will take years for this once-pristine river and its wildlife to recover. Stop this permit NOW! The new version would have no expiration date or review requirement for C&H, and makes no significant changes to the factory's method of discarding its humongous amounts of raw waste. Do not give your vote of approval to this horrendous water and air pollution (containing airborne toxins that cause asthma and other illnesses, right near a local school), and a smell that will turn away the tourists responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in income for the area.

THIS HOG FARM DOES NOT BELONG IN ARKANSAS, and especially nowhere near our sacred Buffalo River. **DO NOT RENEW THIS PERMIT!**

Thank you for listening.
Nancy Baxter
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cc: ADEQ
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From: [Nancy Baxter](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comment](#)
Cc: buffalowatershed@gmail.com
Subject: C&H Farm Permit
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:59:08 PM

March 16, 2017

To the ADEQ:

What are the reasons for continuing to allow the C&H hog farm to continue to pollute the beautiful Buffalo River watershed?

I cannot understand your rationale for allowing this awful CAFO to exist in the first place, much less to grant it a permanent permit for even *more* hog waste and pollution.

A contribution to the state's economy? C&H has, as I understand it, provided fewer than 10 jobs. Whatever profits accrue from this environmental blot on the landscape go to one local family and Cargill, which is now owned by a Brazilian company, so the profits have little or no impact on the local or the state economy.

Arkansas tourism in the area accounts for something like \$150 million a year in income, not to mention the pleasure Arkansans and visitors to the area derive from experiencing the many beauties of the nation's first national river, which should be preserved in its pristine state for the benefit of both people and wildlife. The Buffalo River is one of our state's environmental gems and is famed nationwide for its wonders. If it is allowed to become polluted, tourists will stop coming.

A positive impact on tourism in the area? No way! The smell alone would drive anyone away.

The health of Arkansans? CAFOs are notorious for producing not only liquid but also airborne toxins that cause asthma and other respiratory problems. You allowed this farm to be built less than a mile from a school and its playground. Some states have already outlawed CAFOs for these and other reasons. Any sensible person can see that spreading millions of gallons of hog waste over a large acreage is a disgusting idea.

Would you want to live anywhere near this operation? I ask you to examine your consciences and your common sense. This factory farm is *not* the kind of agricultural operation that brings any significant benefits to our state.

Are you related to the owners of C&H? Or are you being subsidized by Cargill? If not, I simply cannot see why you continue to ignore all the science and the relevant studies done by reputable geologists and other scientists from the University of Arkansas and the Fish & Wildlife Service showing that the waters of Big Creek and the Buffalo have already been adversely affected. No adequate environmental study has ever been done to prove otherwise, and you have refused to have such a study done to meet the requirements of the original permit and the proposed extension and renewal.

And now you have set a deadline of March 17 for public comment on the permit renewal even though a major scientific study that would very likely have an impact on your decision is due on March 24. The public is being railroaded again without consideration for relevant information and input. The unavoidable inference is that you have already

made up your mind and don't really want to hear from any nay-sayers.

You have let down the people of Arkansas so badly that I am ashamed for you. What do you think Environmental Quality is, if not the protection of our lands and waters from stinking factory farms?

DO NOT ISSUE THIS NEW PERMIT! Do your job for a change and represent the interests of the vast majority of Arkansans who want this disgusting factory GONE. Our state's reputation for recreational beauty and safety is in your hands.

Nancy Baxter
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