

From: [My Blue Heaven](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comment](#); robert.moery@governor.arkansas.gov; [Keogh, Becky](#)
Subject: [BULK] Deny C & H Hog Factory 5264 W, permit #5264 AFIN-51-00164
Date: Thursday, April 06, 2017 1:35:20 PM

Governor Hutchinson, Director McWilliams, Director Keogh and ADEQ staff,

As a stakeholder who makes their living primarily from tourists who visit the Buffalo National River and as a resident of Newton County Arkansas who values the protection of the waters of the State of Arkansas and the health of our citizens I respectfully ask that you deny the renewal and change to Reg 5 5264 W for C&H Hog factory. One ill-conceived large hog farm in the Buffalo River Watershed should not be allowed to degrade the Buffalo National River which has special protection from an act of congress which recognized the importance of this exceptional water resource. This river was set aside in perpetuity for the public and it is your duty to protect it. I have no ill-will for the farmers involved even though I think they made a serious mistake in site selection that will be compounded as time passes. I sincerely hope that the Governor and ADEQ recognize this harmful error and will close this hog factory and make the operators financially whole.

I have questions about the weight of comments made by concerned citizens. Does the request for denial of this permit by hundreds, possibly thousands, of individuals asking ADEQ and the Governor to protect the watershed from millions of gallons of untreated hog waste have any bearing on your decision? Do public comments have to be scientific in nature and specific to the permit to be taken seriously? Do comments like "for the love of God protect the crown jewel of Arkansas, the Buffalo National River" or "my family has floated the river for generations and I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy an unpolluted river" have any merit? Most reasonable people will ascertain that exceedingly large volumes of raw hog sewage will reach and contaminate the water in our karst, fragile soils. Are the comments by professional scientists who have thoroughly and completely studied the permit and come to the conclusion that millions of gallons of raw hog sprayed annually on fragile karst soils adjacent to Big Creek and the Mt Judea School is harming the watershed and ultimately the Buffalo National River considered? How much weight do paid lobbyists of the Arkansas Pork Producers and the Arkansas Farm Bureau comments compared to the public? Who ultimately makes this permit decision and how many comments for denial would have any influence to deny the permit and close down this hog factory that was not properly vetted from the start? At what point will ADEQ step up and admit their harmful mistakes. Please see comments by a former ADEQ geologist, Gerald Delavan, that confirm this was a sloppy and unlawful process from the beginning. Is the Governor the only one that has the power to protect the watershed and quality of life here? Does ADEQ have the will or power to do what is morally and ethically right?

Others with more scientific background than myself have contended that renewal of this permit and operation to this point will and has harmed the waters of the state of Arkansas. As a stakeholder the comments of the Buffalo Watershed Alliance, which includes reports from Dr. Mike Smolens and Dr. JoAnn Burkholder, have my full support. David N Motts report for the Buffalo National river of November 2016 reflects my concerns. Tom Aley, a licensed hydrologist in Arkansas, comments confirm my beliefs. The work of Dr Van Brahana and his team over a 3 year period also validates the degradation of the watershed and the karst topography that make this spreading of raw sewage so dangerous to our health and the health of the water millions of people canoe and swim in. The March 5, 2017 letter and comments from The National Park Service signed by Superintendent Kevin Cheri supports my objections to the renewal of the C & H permit as well. The March 10, 2017 letter to Katherine McWilliams from Emily Jones of the National Parks Conservation Association asking to deny the permit is reflective of my views. Also the letter and comments submitted on April 6, 2017 by Teresa A. Turk to Katherine McWilliams and Governor Hutchinson express my objections to the permit renewal in detail.

I could go on and on referencing the thoughtful study of the flawed permit by many individuals and groups who have spent a great deal of volunteer time addressing what is at stake now. The more I know the more firm I am that the permit renewal should be denied. Tens of thousands of hours have been spent by people who care deeply about the Buffalo National River and our quality of life here in Newton County as well as our economy. Please respect these individuals and their work and consider them seriously and fully in the decision making process. The people of Arkansas deserve no less than your commitment to do what is just and right. The spotlight is now on ADEQ and Governor Hutchinson to deny this permit and protect our health and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Susan Watkins
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