

**From:** [Barry Haas](#)  
**To:** [Water Draft Permit Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Re NPDES General Permit ARG590000  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 11:54:25 AM

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Dear Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Permits Section,

I ask that you not renew the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit ARG590000 for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. The controversial permit granted to C & H Hog Farms near the Buffalo National River has resulted in a wealth of negative publicity to the state along with the threat of dangerous pollution to that area's surface and subsurface waters. It is not just Arkansans, but people around the nation, who wonder how ADEQ could have issued a permit that threatens water quality in the Buffalo National River, our nation's first national river.

The Buffalo National River and park generate tens of millions of dollars in economic activity in an area of the state that desperately needs every one of those dollars. C & H Hog Farms puts all of those ecotourism dollars at risk.

Everyone makes mistakes, and issuance of the permit to C & H Hog Farms was a whopper. But let's not compound past mistakes by risking future mistakes of this magnitude. The NPDES General Permit ARG590000 has already proven to be extremely costly to Arkansas. Issuance of the C & H Hog Farms general permit has resulted in more than a half million Arkansas tax dollars being squandered to determine the extent of subsurface contamination of the karst formations in that area. Those funds could have been better spent to educate Arkansas youth, to clean up existing contamination of Arkansas waterbodies and in so many other ways.

I request you reject renewal of NPDES General Permit ARG590000. Let's not make bad things even worse.

Sincerely,  
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