

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (91 7199 9991 7035 3531 7741)

MAR 21 2016

Ross Noland
Noland Law Firm
PO Box 251 420
Little Rock, AR 72225

Re: Notice of Draft Renewal Permit and Public Hearing
NPDES General Permit ARG590000 for Eligible Operators of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) within the State of Arkansas

Dear Mr. Noland:

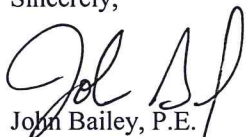
This letter is to give notice that the Office of Water Quality of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has issued a draft permit decision for the renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit ARG590000. This general permit is for the construction and operation of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation as defined in Part 10 of the permit, except those facilities which are excluded in Part 1.4 of the general permit, located within the State of Arkansas.

While this is a statewide permit, to date only one facility has obtained coverage under this permit. This facility is C & H Hog Farms, which is a large CAFO located within the Buffalo River Watershed.

The enclosed public notice was published on March 15, 2016 in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. A public hearing and meeting will be held on April 14, 2016. The attached public notice provides all necessary information as it relates to the application.

If after review of the attached public notice there are any questions concerning this submittal, please contact Katherine McWilliams of my staff at (501) 682-0651 or by email at mcwilliamsk@adeq.state.ar.us.

Sincerely,


John Bailey, P.E.
Senior Operations Manager
Office of Water Quality

Enclosure

Notice of Draft Renewal Permit and Public Hearing
NPDES General Permit ARG590000 for Eligible Operators of Concentrated Animal Feeding
Operations (CAFOs) within the State of Arkansas

This is to give notice that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Office of Water Quality, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317 at telephone number (501) 682-0650, proposes a draft renewal of the general permit ARG590000 for the construction and operation of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation as defined in Part 10 of the permit, except those facilities which are excluded in Part 1.4 of the general permit, located within the State of Arkansas under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act. Coverage under this permit authorizes the land application of manure, litter, or process wastewater and mortality management in accordance with a nutrient management plan. This permit also authorizes discharges from a wastewater storage lagoon only when a precipitation event meets or exceeds a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event.

To submit written comments, request information regarding the draft general permit, or obtain a copy of the general permit and the Fact Sheet, contact the Permits Section at the above address and telephone number or by email at Water-Draft-Permit-Comment@adeq.state.ar.us.

A copy of the Draft General Permit, Public Notice, and Fact Sheet are available at the Department's website at the following web address by entering the permit number listed above:

http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/branch_permits/individual_permits/pn_permits/pnpermits.aspx.

The comment period shall end at 4:30 P.M. (Central Time) on April 14, 2016. Public notice, comments, and hearings will be conducted in accordance with Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC) Regulation 6.104(A)(5) [40 CFR Parts 124.10 through 124.12 by reference] and APC&EC Regulation 8.209 and 8.210 (Administrative Procedures). All persons who wish to comment on ADEQ's draft permitting decision must submit written comments to ADEQ, along with their name and mailing address. After the public comment period, ADEQ will issue a final permitting decision. ADEQ will notify the applicants and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permitting decision. Any interested person who has submitted comments may appeal a final decision by ADEQ in accordance with the APCEC Regulation No. 8.603.

Public Meeting and Hearing

A public meeting and hearing will be held April 14, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Central Time at the Jasper School District Cafetorium, 600 School Street, in Jasper, AR in Newton County to accept comments on the draft permit. Enter the school building at the clock tower. Written and oral statements may be submitted regarding the draft permit to the Hearing Officer for consideration at the Public Hearing. No additional public comments will be accepted upon adjourning the Public Hearing. If inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances develop, a decision may be made to postpone the meeting and hearing. If the hearing is postponed and rescheduled, a new legal notice will be published to announce the details of the new hearing date and comment period.

Published March 15, 2016
Becky W. Keogh, Director,
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality