

**From:** [Solaimanian, Jamal](#)  
**To:** [Deardoff, Amy](#); [McWilliams, Katherine](#)  
**Subject:** FW: From POA - outreach to Buffalo River watershed contacts  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:45:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [ARG590000 Notification of Renewal 20151009.pdf](#)  
[CAFO statement \(2015 Oct 29\).docx](#)

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*Jamal Solaimanian, Ph.D., P.E.*

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**From:** Shafii, Mo  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Solaimanian, Jamal  
**Subject:** FW: From POA - outreach to Buffalo River watershed contacts

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**From:** Allison, Becky  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 1:06 PM  
**To:** Shafii, Mo  
**Cc:** Benenati, Katherine  
**Subject:** From POA - outreach to Buffalo River watershed contacts

Mo,

I was asked to provide information to the three individuals the department informs about draft permit decisions in the Buffalo River watershed. On Thursday, October 29 I sent the attached statement and notice by email to:

- Kevin Cheri, with the Park Service
- Attorney Ross Noland
- Attorney Hank Bates

I also sent the same information by email to county judges and mayors in the counties identified as being in the watershed: Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Pope, Searcy, Stone, Van Buren.

Some of those emails bounced back and on Friday I corrected and resent emails. Those eight towns or cities I could not send by email are receiving a copy of the notice by regular mail.

Becky Allison  
Public Outreach & Assistance Division  
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality  
501-682-0978

**Notification of Renewal  
of NPDES General Permit Number ARG590000 for Eligible Operators of  
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) within the State of Arkansas**

This is to give notice in accordance with A.C.A § 8-4-203 that the Permits Branch of the Water Division of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317 at telephone number (501) 682-0623, has made a decision to renew the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for construction and operation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), which is set to expire on October 31, 2016. Coverage under this permit authorizes the land application of manure, litter, or process wastewater in accordance with a nutrient management plan. A nutrient management plan, which is required to be prepared for each CAFO, provides site-specific requirements for waste management and land application of nutrients. This NPDES CAFO general permit also authorizes a discharge only when a precipitation meets or exceeds a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event.

Once the draft renewal permit is ready, it will be publicly noticed in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* for a 30-day comment period to receive comments from the citizens and current facilities with permit coverage.

Becky W. Keogh, Director

Date: October 31, 2015

Under state law, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is required to provide notice on our intent to renew a general permit at least one year prior to its expiration date. The current permit for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) expires Oct. 31, 2016.

It is ADEQ's intent to renew the NPDES CAFO General Permit (ARG590000). Please see the attached public notice announcing that decision. The notice is scheduled to run on Oct. 31 in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The draft general permit will be issued for public review and comment in the coming months with a final decision to be reached six months prior to the general permit's expiration date.

To date, only one facility has obtained coverage under the general permit. This facility is C&H Hog Farm which is a large CAFO located within the Buffalo River Watershed.

The Big Creek Research and Extension Team, a team of individuals designated by the University of Arkansas System-Division of Agriculture, is undertaking a study of the potential water quality impacts within the Buffalo River watershed from animal wastes produced by the permitted CAFO, C&H Hog Farm, and its operations within the watershed. A final report on this study is due by June 30, 2019. Further, Regulations 5 and 6 have established a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new medium or large CAFOs located within the Buffalo River watershed. This moratorium is effective until September 19, 2020.

ADEQ has decided to renew the NPDES CAFO permit until results of the Big Creek study can be considered. In the interim consistent with the moratorium, new medium or large CAFOs will not be eligible for coverage within the Buffalo River watershed under the NPDES CAFO general permit.