

From: [Chuck Bitting](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comments](#)
Cc: ADH.Administration@arkansas.gov
Subject: C&H Hog Farm General Permit ARG590001
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2015 9:12:24 PM
Attachments: [ADEQ Ltr 16 April 2015.pdf](#)

Please ensure my comments in the attached letter are forwarded on to the Director and appropriate individuals. Thank You.

*Charles J. Bitting
HC 73, Box 182-A
Marble Falls, Arkansas 72648*

April 16, 2015

Ms. Becky Keogh, Director
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118

Subject: Comments Regarding permit modification for C&H Hog Farm, Inc. Permit Number:
ARG590001, AFIN 51-00164

Dear Director Keogh:

Congratulations on your new position! As with all such changes there will be rewards, and there will be significant challenges. I am writing today about one of those challenges.

I have spent the past two and a half years trying to understand how the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality could issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for C&H Hog Farm on Big Creek, just a few short miles upstream of the Buffalo River. I fully believe the permit would never have been issued had ADEQ performed a critical review of the application and sincerely tried to have some public input into the process. The facility has been permitted for less than three years, and they are already asking for a third permit modification. ADEQ has the audacity to ask the public to comment on a very narrow change to the permit, to allow vac-tankers to apply liquid manure from pond #2, but are apparently unwilling to open up the entire permit.

The Buffalo River is not a stranger to controversy. The Buffalo is a river whose scenery is unsurpassed anywhere! The Buffalo is a river which is a national treasure that belongs to all Americans! The Buffalo is a river that Congress thought so highly of, they asked citizens to sell their land to establish a national park! The Buffalo is a river that Congress even exercised eminent domain authority to establish the national park!

It probably makes no difference how the waste gets to the fields, manure is manure. What does matter is how this waste will further impact public health, air quality, and water quality in the area. Since ADEQ is expected to be concerned with environmental quality, I expect your agency to ensure appropriate peer-reviewed studies are conducted by qualified researchers to determine what these impacts will be. I expect this to occur before you allow the modification.

The Nutrient Management Plan and the Arkansas Phosphorus Index worksheets that were submitted with this latest modification request are essentially the same as those originally submitted in June of 2012.

- They still contain three erroneous fields and inaccurate acreages on most of the fields.
- They still do not have accurate maps of the fields,
- They still do not indicate where buffers for protection of surface waters, ground water, neighbors health, etc. are located.

- They are just as poor as the Farm Services Agency Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. That document which was used to justify spending 3.6 Million dollars of taxpayer money for the construction of the facility was found woefully inadequate by the Federal Judge.

If you would care to see it, I can very easily show you that buffers are not being adhered to for the protection of the environment. The big question is: Will ADEQ do anything about it?

I am a landowner and resident of Newton County, living about eight miles from the facility. For several days for the past couple of weeks, the stench of hog manure has permeated the air around my house. This was never a problem before last year when manure application began. I am very concerned about the rotten air compromising the immune systems of my family members. My family's right to clean air has been and is being trampled on by the facility and by extension ADEQ. Will ADEQ do anything about it?

I feel very sorry for the students at Mt. Judea School. They have no choice but to go to school, but are daily subjected to noxious odors from the facility. Will ADEQ do anything about this?

I have great empathy for residents in the area who cannot drink from their springs or even go outside. They live in one of the most scenic areas of Arkansas, but they can no longer enjoy the natural beauty all around them. Will ADEQ do anything about it?

ADEQ has an historic opportunity to correct a huge blunder. You can deny this permit modification, and fully enforce the conditions of the permit, and the federal and state regulations that apply to such facilities.

ADEQ has a solemn responsibility to regulate such activities. This responsibility needs to be exercised before the regulatory limb atrophies completely. Please step up and exercise your responsibility and deny the permit modification.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Bitting

cc: Arkansas Department of Health