Public Comment Registration Card

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Speaker #: [ ] (Attached or back of card)

Hearing Location: Jasper High School, Jasper

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ADEQ
Department of Environmental Quality
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Kathy Downs, P.O Box 292 Jasper, AR. I’m here basically as a citizen of Newton County for several decades now and I am totally disappointed in ADEQ. And I feel like I’m here because they’re trying to put a Band-Aid on a huge, huge wound. And so, I’m really confused by all of this because although I do want these liners in here to protect, I feel like ADEQ has not even done the very basic coverage of protecting our environment in this case. So I feel like, at least if you’re going to go ahead and grant these liners, at least put in some kind of technology that can detect the leakage. And I’ve also read that 5,000 gallons per day of leakage is already allowed. Why is that? There’s all kinds of questions about what is the basic job of ADEQ here. It’s to protect the environment, and you’re not doing it. You’re allowing this to happen, and you keep on adding on all things that you think will be the band-aid that will protect... that will take care of it, but you haven’t even acknowledge this is karst here. This is karst. Everybody knows its karst. This is such a joke that you don’t think that there is karst there. There is karst everywhere in this whole county. We’re known for it. So I don’t understand how ADEQ is allowing this to happen. I feel very much like it’s political, like the fix is in, like the fix was in to begin with because we weren’t even notified that this was happening before it even went up and got built. We were already cheated at that point, so here we are down the line trying to fix it as we go. Also about the liners, they’ve never been tried, the retrofitting has never been tried here. What makes us think that is going to be workable, that this is going to work? This is very difficult and complex thing to do. I don’t understand how people can even take these kinds of chances with this environment. We have a beautiful pristine environment here. That’s why most of us are here, and we want to stay here. And we don’t want to see it wrecked. And we don’t want to see ADEQ turn their backs again and again and again on our interests of keeping this place clean and beautiful. I also am worried about the over-flooding about these ponds being on steep slopes and everybody knows how things flood around here. I can just imagine a long term rain event filling those ponds and their just going to flood over and go into the river. So great plastic liners, but what about the over-flooding? How about what goes over the top of those after a big rain event? So these are my concerns about it. I have many more concerns, but this is all I liked to say at this point. But please ADEQ, do your job. Please.