

From: [My Blue Heaven](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comments](#); [Water Draft Permit Comments](#)
Subject: C& H Permit Modification Comment
Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 8:52:40 AM

Director Keogh and ADEQ Staff,

As a citizen of Newton County, Arkansas, I oppose the permit modification requested by the owners of C&H hog factory to spread raw animal waste from pond #2 by tanker truck. The farm continues to spray tens of thousands of gallons of untreated hog waste on fields with karst topography near the Mt Judea school and adjoining fields which poses a health risk to citizens of the county and has increased the e coli bacteria in Big creek and subsequently the Buffalo National River. This request for modification of the permit should be denied and the entire permit reopened for public comment and proper scientific review.

In December, 2014, U.S. District Judge Price Marshall issued a decision finding that federal agencies illegally guaranteed loans to C&H Hog Farms, a factory farm near the Buffalo National River, without first effectively evaluating the potential environmental impacts of this swine operation. The Federal court ruled that the environmental assessment done by the FSA not adequate. In the words of the district court, the evaluation prepared by this agency "was cursory and flawed. It didn't mention the Buffalo River. It didn't mention Big Creek," the tributary next to the spray fields. "It didn't mention the nearby Mt. Judea school. It didn't mention the endangered Gray Bat." The Small Business Administration, guarantor 75% of a \$2.3 million loan, did not take any action to evaluate environmental impacts.

This animal factory was pushed through with a flawed plan from the beginning and allowing C&H to modify their permit to to spray raw hog waste from pond #2 by tanker only allows the environmental damage to continue and puts the public health at risk. The continuing mistakes in ownership identification of spray fields, omissions and errors in reporting in C&H's 2014 annual report demonstrates the inability of these farmer's to carry out the even the environmentally flawed plan. It is irresponsible for ADEQ to let this continue.

It deeply concerns me that the ADEQ puts Cargill's, a multi national, privately held company owned by billionaires and one animal factory's wants ahead of the health and safety of the citizens of Newton County and Arkansas. The entire permit should be reopened at the very least. To do anything less is putting the citizen's of Arkansas and the crown jewel, the Buffalo National River, at risk. This effects not only our health but also the economic engine, river tourism, that provides hundreds of jobs for our

poor corner of the state.

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