



Arkansas Natural Resources Commission



J. Randy Young, PE
Executive Director

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Mike Beebe
Governor

April 26, 2007

Mr. Gene Sullivan, Executive Director
Bayou Meto Irrigation District
1300 N. Center St. Suite #9
Lonoke, AR 72086

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has issued water quality certification for the Bayou Meto Irrigation Project contingent on revision of current mineral standards for chlorides and sulfates in the Delta Ecoregion Streams as identified in Regulation #2. ADEQ Water Division staff has indicated that import of Arkansas River water into Bayou Meto under certain conditions would elevate mineral concentrations above current standards. Therefore, the Bayou Meto Irrigation Distribution District is currently petitioning ADEQ to revise mineral standards for chlorides and sulfates in Bayou Meto. This revision will remove the potential to exceed mineral standards associated with normal operation of the proposed project. Revision of the current mineral standards will not change designated uses in Bayou Meto.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission supports the utilization of Arkansas River import water in the Bayou Meto Basin for agricultural water supply, flood control and waterfowl management benefits. Commission staff has identified no conflict with existing or future water uses in Bayou Meto associated with revising the chloride and sulfate standards at this time.

If you need further assistance, or have questions, please contact Ken Brazil of my staff at (501) 682-3980.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Randy Young".

J. Randy Young, P.E.
Executive Director

JRY:KB:ps