

From: Carmen Quinn [mailto:ccquinn23@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 7:44 PM
To: Reg-Comment
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Change to APC&E Commission Regulations 5 & 6

June 23, 2014

Mr. Doug Szenher

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Public Outreach and Assistance Division

5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Mr. Szenher:

Below are my comments in support of the proposed ban on new medium or large confined swine operations (commonly known as "CAFOs") within the Buffalo National River ("BNR") watershed. The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission regulations 5 and 6 should be amended so that no medium - large size CAFOs are allowed in that area. (Personally I would prefer none at all be allowed.)

I believe this ban is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Monitoring new or existing CAFOs for compliance with state environmental regulations will not be enough to guarantee that the BNR will be protected. Common sense, as well as the experiences of other states, should tell us that. Once the contamination occurs, there's no going back.
2. These animal factories are public health threats. I have read about the effect of CAFOs on their surrounding communities on the website of the Centers for Disease Control; I have listened to the documented stories of the disastrous results of allowing unregulated CAFOs in the state of North Carolina. CAFOs can cause respiratory and skin problems for workers and the surrounding community. A hog produces ten times the amount of waste of a human each day. The pits where the waste is stored, as well as the large fans which ventilate the buildings, emit particulate matter and trace gases such as ammonia, methane and hydrogen sulfide. The smell alone is enough to make people physically sick. Several newspapers, including the

Democrat-Gazette, have published letters and stories from citizens who are already feeling these effects just from the one farm in Mt. Judea.

3. The BNR watershed is one of the worst locations in the state for a factory farm. It includes karst topography, which will eventually – and I believe it *will*, not *might* - allow runoff from the spray fields to carry bacteria, nutrients, and contaminants through the karst and straight into the BNR through its tributaries. There is little to no filtering effect with karst. The river could easily become over-fertilized, with algae blooms and fish kills as a result.

4. Who wants to swim in a contaminated river? The risk of contamination of the Buffalo with E. Coli and other bacteria should be of great economic concern. In 2012, over a million people visited the BNR alone, and contributed over \$43 million dollars to the communities surrounding the river. It would be unbelievably short-sighted to put that at further risk.

I am not suggesting we ban pig farms from the state; but we certainly do not need any more of them Buffalo River watershed. There are other, more suitable, locations.

I have lived in Arkansas for 17 years, and am constantly amazed by its incredible beauty, especially the Buffalo National River. Our natural resources should be protected for our judicious use and for enjoyment by future generations. I hope the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission and ADEQ will amend Regulation 5 and Regulation 6 to implement this ban on swine operations; and as soon as possible.

Thanks for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Carmen Quinn

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