

From: Paul Justus [mailto:geoark2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 10:42 AM
To: Reg-Comment
Subject: To: Doug Szenher, ADEQ, Public Outreach and Assistance Division

Dear Mr. Szenher,

I am writing to comment on the need to protect the Buffalo River National Park from confined pig operations.

The very valuable and clean water of the Buffalo National River is at risk of contamination from pig effluent holding ponds that could fail due to flooding. Also, in a karst geology pig effluent could travel in underground waterways and contaminate ground water and the Buffalo River.

The Buffalo National River attracted 1,093,083 visitors who spent \$43.78 million in the areas near the river. My wife and I often visit the river and spend money in Jasper and other places. We have been reconsidering our vacation plans as long as there is a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in the area. Not only do CAFOs give off obnoxious odors, they contribute to greenhouse gas emissions along with fecal bacteria and other pathogens.

As I understand it the Arkansas Department of Health has expressed concerns that water-borne bacteria and parasites from the proposed land application sites may pose a risk for body contact in the Buffalo River.

The risk to the health and economic vitality of the citizens of Arkansas is too great to allow CAFOs in this ecologically sensitive area of the Ozarks. Pig CAFOs should not be allowed in any watershed that feed into the Buffalo River. I also suggest that hog CAFOs should not be allowed in Arkansas.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Paul Justus

22 Emporia Street

Eureka Springs, AR 72632

479-253-2883