

19 West Pike St
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Feb 21, 2016

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Water Division 5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Jim Wise and Director Keogh,

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the National Park Service (NPS) has requested that three tributaries of the Buffalo National River be placed on the "Impaired Waterbodies" list. This request was submitted to ADEQ, "the state's main environmental protection agency, charged with protecting, enhancing, and restoring the environment for Arkansans." (quote from heading on ADEQ website)

The request was accompanied by robust sets of water quality data, collected by qualified personnel from NPS and the U.S. Geological Survey, following appropriate field protocol and procedures, that prove, beyond any doubt, that all three tributaries suffer from impaired water quality.

ADEQ denied the request. This inaction flies in the face of the agency's purpose as stated on the agency's website. We understand that ADEQ is upgrading data collection and curating methods and for some reason the quantity of data provided by NPS and USGS does not fit neatly into the new system. However, rather than acknowledging the data, exercising caution and making the ~~the~~ impaired streams designation, ADEQ will include the three tributaries in the list of waterbodies with INADEQUATE DATA! This is unconscionable!

I request that ADEQ act responsibly and investigate the submitted NPS data now. If ADEQ does not do so, I request a clear, public explanation from the agency, addressing why such a robust data set would not be used in every way possible to protect one of Arkansas' finest natural and economic resources.

I also request that the three tributaries be placed on the 2016 Impaired Waterbodies list.

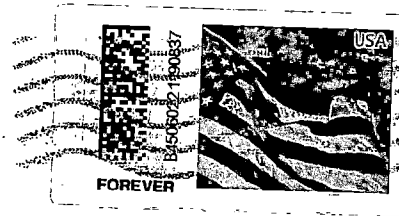
Sincerely,

Ann Mesrobian

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