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Subject: Buffalo River Tributaries
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Director Keogh

Mr Jim Wise

Water Division

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

Comment on Draft 2016 303(d) Impaired Waterbodies List

Dear Mr. Wise and Director Keogh,

Please accept my comments on the 303(d) Impaired Waterbodies list.

On October 6, 2015 the National Park Service made a recommendation to ADEQ that Mill Creek, Bear Creek, and Big Creek be added to the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. All three of these streams are greater than 10 square miles, therefore are categorized as primary contact water within the Buffalo River Watershed. As of this date ADEQ has been non-responsive. This is unsettling considering that ADEQ has worked with and accepted recommendations from the National Park Service in the past. Because the Buffalo National River is such a critical tourism draw, I would think that ADEQ would be particularly interested in NPS concerns and recommendations in regards to the Buffalo National River.

According to Reg. 2.30 these streams are full body contact streams and therefore when sampling bacterial data from these streams during May 1st - September 30th a geometric mean of 126 colonies per 100 ml is the standard.

These streams are within the watershed of the Buffalo National River and must be maintained as Reg. 2.01 states to prevent the degradation of the Buffalo River. Reg. 2.01 states; existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.

Please add Big Creek, Mill Creek, and Bear Creek to the 303 (d) impaired waters list. It is visibly and data apparent these tributaries are impaired due to some type of pollution within the watershed. The source of the impaired criteria does not come from the Buffalo River itself but from the tributaries that are the sources of the waters of the river.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter,

Linda Eddings

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