

March 12, 2016

Jim Wise

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Water Division 5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Jim Wise and Director Keogh,

The National Park Service (NPS) requested that three tributaries of the Buffalo National River be placed on the "Impaired Waterbodies" list pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Yet the ADEQ declined to do so despite the abundance of data from the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). I request that the three streams, Big Creek, Mill Creek and Bear Creek be placed on the 2016 impaired list.

ADEQ has a responsibility to follow up on warnings of impairment from long and trusted sources such as the National Park Service and USGS.

ADEQ needs to take heed of the submitted warnings, increase its monitoring of these streams, and take all the steps necessary to determine the sources of impairment and then eliminate their impact on the Buffalo National River. All the data collection being done by various groups needs to be considered.

The significance of research is ultimately dependent on reproducibility and reliability. To base decisions neglecting research that is reproducible and reliable is to make uninformed and short-sighted decisions, affecting the present and future.

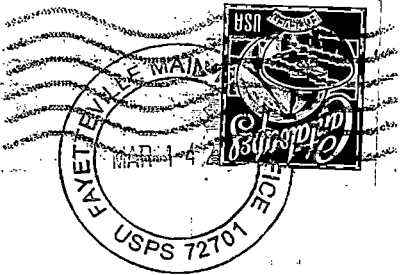
Name William N. Ferm Jr.

Signature William N. Ferm Jr.

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