

From: [Marian Johnson](#)
To: [WaterbodyComments](#)
Subject: Concerning the placement of portions of Big Creek and the Buffalo River in the category 4b; PLEASE RE-ACCESS AND PLACE THESE WATERWAYS IN CATEGORY 5 IMPAIRMENT
Date: Friday, September 7, 2018 3:34:03 PM

To whom it may concern,
GET AT THE TRUTH! IDENTIFY AND STOP THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEMS OF BIG CREEK AND THE BUFFALO!

RE-ACCESS THE CATEGORY AND PLACE THE IMPAIRED WATERWAYS OF BIG CREEK AND THE BUFFALO RIVER INTO CATEGORY 5 ---SO THE PROPER TMDL STUDIES WILL BE PERFORMED.

I was in attendance at the public hearing on the placement of the large portions of the Buffalo River and it's main tributary, Big Creek on the 303(d) list of impaired Arkansas waterways in the category 4b. Only 2 people representing ADEQ identified themselves as employees of ADEQ, no representatives of C and H Hog Farms identified themselves, no one representing Farm Bureau identified themselves and no media identified themselves. I did not get a total count on the individuals or representatives of concerned organizations that were in attendance, albeit less than 100. THIS LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY THAT NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THIS SITUATION. That is sad and I will do everything in my power as a concerned citizen of the state of Arkansas to rectify this situation on whatever free and PUBLIC means I have available to me. Obviously, when reading the history of this **debacle** it was seemingly not brought to the public awareness intentionally.

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The numbers given and statements made by the 2 ADEQ employees were enough to make me believe that the impaired waterways listed above SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED IN CATEGORY 5. It seems as though with the 150 monitoring stations mentioned by location around the state of Arkansas we are paying as taxpayers for monitoring that IS SUFFICIENT to truly arrive at the correct and truthful cause of the problems behind the increased nutrient load that indicates the cause of the impairment of the waterways. By placing the sections of Big Creek and the Buffalo River in category 4b....the TMDL is not indicated for determining the source of the issue of the increased nutrient load. THIS MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE TO ME WHY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS DOES NOT SEE THE NEED TO DO THE APPROPRIATE TESTING TO FIND AND IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEMS.

I also learned at the public hearing that because the C and H Hog Farm was originally permitted, then a different permit was given to them...and then yet another different permit was given to them...AND NOW the lawyers have it tied up in court but the appeal process allows them to keep operating...the ADEQ cannot do or recommend anything to anybody (as I understood what I heard) over this situation. So, they are a useless monitoring department in this instance...for doing anything but providing the numbers and information on WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE TO NOT LET THE WATERWAYS GET IN THIS IMPAIRED STATUS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

And the fact that we don't even have numerical reporting values for all of the 35 parameters that we test is absolutely an ARCHAIC NOTION. Machines are utilized and machines give numbers.

That's how they work. The 2 employees of ADEQ didn't actually say they didn't have the numbers... but, Arkansas utilizes a NARRATIVE VALUE OF REPORTING FOR SOME OF THE PARAMETERS.

So, as the main takeaway I got from the public hearing and I will not quote the ADEQ...*what I took* from this meeting is that ADEQ sees BMP or BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES to be the best and only solution to this problem as it has been labeled so far on the 303(d) list in category 4b. They seem to believe that the owner(s)...who all they may be...are reliable enough in this situation to not let the situation get any worse than it already is...and that BMP will take care of and resolve the issue. THIS IS LUDICROUS! First of all C and H Hog Farm as I have read so far, instituted this business without the proper testing of the soil and environmental measures in place. What on EARTH makes anyone think they would spend the money to do it now?? As I have read on their Facebook page they, C AND H HOG FARM DOESN'T THINK THEY HAVE OR COULD BE DOING ANYTHING TO HURT THE ENVIRONMENT.

PLEASE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, DO THE STUDIES AND THE TMDL TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THE NUTRIENT LOAD AND OVERGROWTH OF ALGAE - TO PUT AN END TO THE HE SAID/SHE SAID, YOU ARE/WE AREN'T NONSENSE--- SO THE TRUTH WILL BE TOLD!!!!

Sincerely,
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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10