

News Release

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INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY EVALUATION TO BE CONDUCTED AT HOG FARM

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will employ independent experts to assess liner integrity of storage ponds at C&H Hog Farms in the Buffalo River Watershed. The evaluation is being advanced to provide additional information to the agency and the community.

The University of Arkansas Big Creek Research and Extension Team (BCRET) previously conducted an Electrical Resistivity Imaging (ERI) study around the ponds and has ongoing sampling to detect any potential leakage.

“The ADEQ Integrity Evaluation will be conducted in an open and transparent manner and is part of our statutory authority to conduct investigations and studies as needed to gather data and information in the administration or enforcement of pollution laws,” Director Becky Keogh stated.

With Governor Asa Hutchinson’s approval, ADEQ will contract with a third party team of experts to conduct the study. The primary purpose of the study is to supplement the recent information from the BCRET ERI for further investigation of the subsurface epikarst to ascertain the integrity of the waste lagoon liners.

ADEQ will provide oversight and an opportunity to

collaborate with other scientific experts from BCRET and the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance. ADEQ will utilize BCRET's ERI results to select an appropriate study location.

C&H Hog Farms has agreed to the evaluation. ADEQ anticipates this effort will begin in the next 60 days.

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