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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
AND FACSIMILE**

August 4, 2016

Robert Blanz, Ph.D.  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: C&H Hog Farm Investigation

Dear Dr. Blanz:

The Buffalo River Coalition (the Coalition) received the Draft Site Investigation Work Plan (the Draft Plan) on Tuesday, August 2. In accordance with the commitment of the Coalition to promptly respond to the proposals of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regarding the captioned investigation, we are submitting herewith our comments on the Draft Plan. We request that ADEQ advise us of its position on these comments by 5:00 o'clock P.M. tomorrow (Friday).

Because the investigation is to start Monday (subject to reconciliation of the issue of observers of the investigation), our comments are necessarily as brief as possible. Our comments are:

**Draft Plan Page 2: 1.3 Project Goals**

The Draft Plan states that to accomplish the project goals, a boring expected to be approximately 100-feet in depth will be drilled in the vicinity of the waste storage ponds to evaluate the subsurface and collect soil and groundwater samples for analysis of potential contaminants.

COMMENT: A depth of 100-ft is inadequate; the electrical resistivity anomaly extended to 120+/- feet and the hole should be targeted to investigate, if physically possible, the complete depth of 120 +/- feet. The object of the investigation is to investigate the anomaly, and the hole should extend to whatever depth it is found.

### **Draft Plan Page 1: 1.1 Purpose**

The Draft Plan states: “This Site Investigation is being conducted by the ADEQ to evaluate the lithology/geology below the site and assess potential subsurface impact from the waste storage ponds.”

COMMENT No. 1: The boring is at a single location and it can only directly examine circumstances at this single location. “Site” is a term of art and requires a definition that limits the investigation to the circumstances at this single boring location.

COMMENT No. 2: The language here needs to conform completely to the applicable language in the Quality Assurance Project Plan page 2 Section 1.4 – it does not.

### **Draft Plan Page 3: 1.4 Project Team**

COMMENT: The Plan needs to require the independent geologist to provide a copy of all notes, photographs, videos etc. as part of the independent geologist’s report.

### **Draft Plan Page 12: 6.0 Reporting**

COMMENT: The Plan should require that copies of all notes, photos and videos be made and curated; photos and videos should all be described as to what / who is present in the frame and annotated by frame number in the field notebook; all copies of paper records should be BATES labeled at the time of reproduction to avoid concerns about full vs partial copy sets. Copies of all notes, photos, videos, field notes, and other records and documents should be made available to the Coalition in addition to ADEQ, or posted on the ADEQ website for this investigation.

### **Sample/Analysis Plan page 2.0 Analytes of Interest**

COMMENT: In the case of any groundwater that might be recovered, there may be limited volume and given the volumes specified as required (see SAP, Page 9 Table 6-2). Therefore, a hierarchy of analyses to be conducted should be determined. A suggested hierarchy for groundwater samples might be: (1) Conductivity, (2) nutrients, (3) Cl, K, Na, (4) other major anions & other major cations, (5) TSS, (6) E. Coli.

### **Sample/Analysis Plan page 4.0, 3.5 Ground Water Sample Collection**

The Plan states: “Once the casing is installed, groundwater within the casing will be allowed to stabilize.”

COMMENT: The term “stabilize” is not defined – Chemical criteria? Physical criteria? Both? Water level change?



**Sample/Analysis Plan page 4.0, 4.1.1 Field Logbook**

COMMENT: The language does not conform exactly to that in the Quality Assurance Project Plan @ Page 11

**Sample/Analysis Plan page 4.0, 4.1.2 Site Photography/Videos**

COMMENT: Access to the full file of photos and videos needs to be specified – also see comments Re: Draft Plan Page 3: 1.4 Project Team; and Draft Plan Page 12: 6.0 Reporting

**Sample/Analysis Plan page 8, 4.5, Soil and Rock Core Retention**

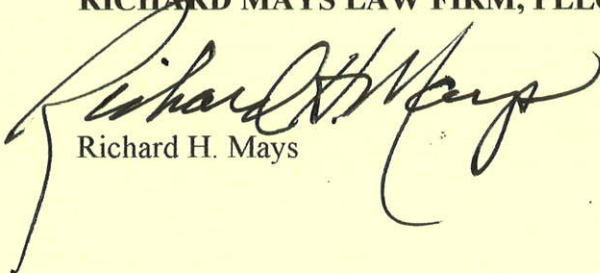
COMMENT: Access protocol to the soil and rock cores retained by all parties, including the Coalition, should be specified.

These comments are in addition to and not in lieu of those contained in my letter to you of August 4 regarding persons who will be allowed to serve as observers on the site during the investigation, which comments are adopted and incorporated herein by reference. In addition, the Coalition reserves the right and opportunity to submit additional comments that we may determine upon further examination of the Plan.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

**RICHARD MAYS LAW FIRM, PLLC**



Richard H. Mays

cc: Buffalo River Coalition  
Governor Asa Hutchinson