

**STATEMENT TO  
ARKANSAS POLLUTION CONTROL & ECOLOGY COMMISSION**

**JUNE 24, 2016**

**THE BUFFALO RIVER COALITION IS PLEASED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY HAS DECIDED TO EMPLOY INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO ASSESS LINER INTEGRITY OF STORAGE PONDS AT C&H HOG FARMS.**

**AS WE ALL KNOW, THE COALITION HAS URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION OF A POSSIBLE RELEASE OF HOG WASTES AT THE HOG FARM. THIS IS A GOOD FIRST STEP IN PROVING OR DISPROVING WHETHER THERE IS A RELEASE THAT COULD BE DISASTEROUS TO THE BUFFALO RIVER.**

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT MUST BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS INVESTIGATION, AND ABOUT WHICH THE COALITION IS VERY INTERESTED. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL BE VERY INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS WHO ARE TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION, THE TYPE AND SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE PROTOCOLS AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED, AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION.**

**“TRANSPARENCY” IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS CASE BECAUSE OF ITS HISTORY, AND IT IS TO EVERYBODY’S ADVANTAGE THAT THE COALITION AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES BE GIVEN FULL OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE. THAT INCLUDES BEING FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND RESULTS.**

**ADEQ HAS COMMITTED THAT THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MANNER, AND WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS FROM BCRET AND THE BUFFALO RIVER COALITION. THE COALITION LOOKS FORWARD TO THAT COLLABORATION.**

**THE COALITION WANTS TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE TO THE COMMISSION FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN HEARING US OUT ON THIS ISSUE, AND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS RESPONSE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU WILL SEE US AGAIN.**