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March 14, 2017

Mr. Caleb Osborne
Director, Water Division
Arkansas Department of
Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: C&H Hog Farm, Newton County, Arkansas
Draft Permit No. 5264-W; AFIN 51-00164
Comment Period for Draft Permit – Request for Extension

Dear Mr. Osborne:

I am writing on behalf of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, Inc. and its individual members to request that the period for receipt of public comments on the captioned draft Permit that are due this Friday, March 17 be extended for a period of twenty (20) days pursuant to authority of Commission Regulation 8.208.

The reason for this request is that there are an extensive number of comments that are under development and review on issues that are largely unprecedented in this State, and that require additional time for a full and intelligent discussion. In addition, there are a number of reports of very significant scientific studies or assessments of the Buffalo River watershed that should be released in that time period that have direct bearing on the issues involved in the draft permit. Additional time should be allotted by ADEQ for the issuance of those reports and the incorporation of their findings into the comments that will be submitted by various individuals and organizations.

The reports that are about to be issued are:

"Utilizing Fluorescent Dyes to Identify Meaningful Water-Quality Sampling Locations and Enhance Understanding of Groundwater Flow Near a Hog CAFO on Mantled Karst—Buffalo National River, Southern Ozarks" by Van Brahana, Ph. D;

"Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Assessment, Buffalo National River, Arkansas," by David Mott; and

"Surface Water Quality in the Buffalo National River 1985-2011" by Sandi Formica (Watershed Resource Conservation Center).

We believe that these reports are directly relevant and material to show the significant environmental impacts associated with the subject draft permit, including but not necessarily limited to:

- the presence of Karst topography at and near the CAFO site;
- the adverse impacts on regional groundwater resulting from the proposed CAFO facility and manure disposal sites;
- the adverse impacts on regional surface waters resulting from the proposed CAFO facility and manure disposal sites.

Your favorable consideration of this request for extension of time would be appreciated. Alternately, we request your affirmation that these reports, when they become available, may be used to supplement the administrative record in this matter

Sincerely,

RICHARD MAYS LAW FIRM, PLLC


Richard H. Mays

Counsel for the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance