

September 1, 2018

Re: Draft 303(d) List - Addition of Big Creek and Buffalo River

To the Office of Water Quality:

I am strongly opposed to the addition of Big Creek in Newton County to the 303(d) list. It is obvious this is yet another attempt to target C & H Hog Farms and an attempt to control those of us who live and work in the Buffalo River watershed. From reviewing the data provided by ADEQ, it appears ADEQ is using test results from water samples collected by members of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA). Please confirm whether or not this is accurate. If this is true, I am vehemently opposed to the use of any water samples and/or test results obtained and/or analyzed by any member of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance or laboratories/groups associated with that organization.

Here's an excerpt directly from the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance's website that states their mission and purpose:

"The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance was created to help preserve and protect the scenic beauty and pristine water quality of the Buffalo National River by opposing and preventing the construction and operation of industrial confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) within the Buffalo River watershed."

"Our goals are to educate and advocate for protection of the Buffalo River and its associated watershed by

- 1) working for the closure of C & H Hog Farm, and*
- 2) supporting a moratorium on any future hog CAFOs within the Buffalo River watershed."*

Now, assuming my understanding is correct that ADEQ is using test results from samples collected by the BRWA, please explain how ADEQ can rely on the BRWA's work to be unbiased and solely based upon sound, widely-accepted scientific practices when the BRWA's stated primary goal is to work for the closure of C & H? Would ADEQ have accepted water samples or test results collected or prepared by employees of C & H Hog Farms? I live and farm near Big Creek. I am fully aware of the level of hatred the BRWA has for C & H Hog Farms. Using any data from the BRWA to make a decision as important as this one is insulting to those of us who actually live here and will be directly impacted by the placement of Big Creek on the 303(d) list.

I respectfully request that Big Creek not be added to the 303(d) list. Adding Big Creek to the list for the sake of pacifying those who can't be pacified is dangerous and harmful to those of us who live and work near Big Creek. Taxpayer dollars have already been invested in the study of Big Creek. Please do not waste more money trying to save a waterbody that isn't truly impaired.

Sincerely,
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