

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information, Contact:
Ross Noland, 501-396-5400

OZARK SOCIETY AND ARKANSAS PUBLIC POLICY PANEL INTIATE RULEMAKING TO PROHIBIT NEW LARGE SWINE OPERATIONS IN THE BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED

Little Rock, AR (April 25, 2014) - The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission granted two petitions to initiate rulemaking to prohibit certain swine operations in the Buffalo National River Watershed. Petitioners the Ozark Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel are Arkansas non-profits dedicated to conservation and sound public policy.

The petitions seek parallel changes to Commission Regulations 5 and 6 to prohibit the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality from issuing new permits to swine operations in the Buffalo National River Watershed with 750 or more swine weighing 55 pounds or more, or 3,000 or more swine weighing less than 55 pounds. Both rulemakings contain provisions to allow existing facilities in the Buffalo National River Watershed to seek a permit renewal, permit modification, or a transfer between Regulation 5 and 6 permitting schemes. The Commission entered Minute Orders to begin a 4 to 6 month rulemaking process.

“The rulemakings address a defined, specific concern in the Buffalo National River Watershed,” said Robert Cross, president of the Ozark Society. “If the Commission adopts these regulation changes, residents, business owners, and recreational users of the Buffalo National River will not suffer adverse impacts from medium and large swine operation pollution.” The petitions state the rule changes will lower threats to water quality posed by the land application of swine wastes and catastrophic failures of waste holding ponds.

The Commission’s Minute Order calls for a public hearing on June 17, 2014, in Harrison, Arkansas. The public may also submit written comments via mail or email to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The petitions to initiate rulemaking and supporting documents are found here: http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regs/drafts/draft_regs.htm.

Questions regarding the rulemaking petitions, or requests for more information, may be directed to Ross Noland of McMath Woods P.A., attorneys for the petitioners, at 501-396-5400. McMath Woods P.A. is an environmental and personal injury law firm in Little Rock, Arkansas which has represented clients since 1953.