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ADEQ News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 19, 2017

Study Shows No Evidence of Pond Release

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) completed its review of the C&H Hog Farms Drilling Study Report. ADEQ's review found no evidence of a release from the storage ponds.

A multi-disciplinary, internal-review team at ADEQ—consisting of a Professional Engineer, a Professional Geologist, and scientists—reviewed the study's findings while considering additional information derived from questions posed by concerned citizens. A copy of the review team's findings, including responses to public questions, is available at the ADEQ website.

ADEQ Director Becky Keogh issued the following statement:

"This study and advanced technological review demonstrates the commitment the Governor has made to protect the vitality of the Buffalo River and its watershed as a valued natural resource to our state. This project demonstrates the kind of science-based approach that ADEQ applies in carrying out our mission and the mission of the Governor. The study was a remarkable effort, and I commend the full project team for their professionalism, expertise, openness, and competency to better inform the public and our regulatory decisions in the future."

Harbor Environmental and Safety successfully completed the drilling study project in a manner consistent with the Drilling Study Work Plan. The drilling study achieved the objective of the project by identifying that the anomaly in the Electrical Resistivity Imaging (ERI) study noted by Dr. Halihan at 120.5 feet below ground surface was groundwater, and not a release. The findings of this study will inform and enable the department to move forward with the pending permitting decisions for C&H Hog Farms.

In April of 2016, ADEQ was made aware of results of the ERI study performed by Dr. Todd Halihan on behalf of the Big Creek Research Extension Team. As part of its regulatory authority, and in response to citizen concerns, ADEQ authorized Harbor through an existing contract to conduct a drilling study—the standard next step following an ERI study. The scope of the drilling study performed in September of 2016 was to resolve questions regarding subsurface conditions at the point of interest identified by the ERI study. Harbor's final report on the study was released December 1, 2016.

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