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MITCHELL WILLIAMS

### **Environmental Insights Webinar**

#### **“Antidegradation Implementation: Overview and Discussion of DEQ’s Draft Proposal” Wednesday, August 19, 2020, Noon–1:15 CST**

Join Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C. for an Environmental Insights Webinar on the Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) recently proposed “Draft Antidegradation Implementation Methodology.” The webinar will be held **Wednesday, August 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. (CST).**

DEQ’s Draft Antidegradation Implementation Methodology is one of the most important developments in NPDES permitting in Arkansas in decades. Once finalized, the implementation methodology will change the way DEQ processes every new and significantly expanded NPDES permit. The implementation methodology establishes a process for determining when, and to what extent, a new or expanded point source discharge may degrade the quality of the waterbody that will receive the proposed discharge.

The implementation plan has been years in the making, with input from invitation only focus group and stakeholder sessions. Two of the expert participants in the stakeholder sessions, Shon Simpson of GBMc & Associates, Inc. and Ray Wieda of FTN Associates, Ltd., will join Mitchell Williams attorneys Allan Gates and Jordan Wimpy in a virtual roundtable discussion of DEQ’s proposal. The panel’s discussion will explain the legal authority and limits of antidegradation policy, review the timeline for development of DEQ’s implementation policy, and explore key concepts and critical issues posed by the draft implementation methodology.

**Registration is required. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)** The webinar is free but space is limited. The webinar has been submitted for 1.25 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit by the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board. Attendees who are licensed in other states are responsible for applying for CLE credit in those states.

#### **About the Panelists:**

**Ray Wieda** is a Project Manager with FTN Associates, Ltd. in Little Rock and has been with FTN for 19 years. He also worked for the Division of Environmental Quality for 7 years as a permit writer. He is a member of the Arkansas Environmental Federation’s Water Committee and recently participated in DEQ’s stakeholder meetings for the Continuing Planning Process (CPP) and Antidegradation Implementation Methodology (AIM).”

**Shon Simpson** is a Principal with GBMc & Associates, Inc. He has over 38 years’ experience in water quality and environmental regulatory programs as a consultant and as a former Chief of Water Quality for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. As a consultant his experience includes serving as project manager for NPDES permitting related projects in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, Iowa, and Oklahoma. Shon has conducted numerous special studies for clients

including site specific criteria development, water quality standards revisions, TMDLs, aquatic life studies, antidegradation reviews, and development of alternative regulatory approaches. In the past few years Shon has served on several (ongoing) ADEQ technical/stakeholder work groups including update of the state's Continuous Planning Process, the Antidegradation Implementation Focus Group and Stakeholder Group, and the Arkansas Water Quality Standards 2019 Triennial Review Stakeholder Group.

**Allan Gates** is a senior member in the Environmental Practice Group of Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard. He is immediate Past President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers, an elected Life Member of the American Law Institute, and a frequent speaker on environmental law topics.

**Jordan Wimpy** is a member of the Environmental Practice Group of Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard. He currently chairs the Agricultural Management Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources. He is past chair of the Arkansas Bar Association's Environmental Law Section. Jordan regularly represents trade associations, utilities, and business clients in administrative rulemaking matters and all aspects of environmental permitting, compliance and enforcement processes.

For more information please contact Jennifer Young at [jyoung@mwlaw.com](mailto:jyoung@mwlaw.com) or (501) 370-7744.

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