



Springdale Water Utilities

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Mr. Doug Szenher
Public Outreach and Assistance Division
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Dr.
North Little Rock, AR 72118
reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us

May 8, 2013

Dear Mr. Szenher:

Following please find written comments made by Springdale Water Utilities for the City of Springdale, AR in response to the current rulemaking proceeding to revise APCEC Regulation No. 2

These comments are in addition to those submitted jointly with the cities of Fayetteville, Rogers, et.al by Mr. Allan Gates under different cover.

We appreciate this opportunity for comment and look forward to a favorable response to comments made here and on our behalf

Sincerely yours,

Heath Ward
Executive Director

JEE/jee
Attachment

Cc: file
Jennifer Enos, Wastewater Facilities Director

Comments of the City of Springdale
on the Proposed Revisions to APCEC Regulation No. 2

The City of Springdale, Arkansas respectfully submits the following written comments in response to the current rulemaking proceeding to revise APCEC Regulation No. 2. These comments are in addition to those submitted jointly with the cities of Fayetteville, Rogers, et. al on our behalf by Mr. Allan Gates.

Revisions in harmonic mean flow calculations as proposed in revisions to Regulation No. 2 are not accurate and should not be implemented.

Draft Regulation 2.106 defines harmonic mean flow as “The number of daily flow measurements divided by the sum of the reciprocals of the daily flows. Long-term flow data should be used for the calculation of harmonic mean flow. If long-term flow data is unavailable, a minimum of twenty-four (24) samples each collected at least thirty (30) days apart is required,” Further, under the definition for Critical flows: “...Reg.2.511 (B) Ecoregion Reference Stream Minerals Values: Harmonic mean flow: if no data is available to calculate a harmonic mean flow, permits shall contain a “monitor and report” condition (for a period of time not to exceed three years) until such time as the harmonic mean flow can be determined.”

Harmonic mean flow cannot be determined using 24 samples over a 2 to 3 year period as defined with any reasonable accuracy due to extreme fluctuations in precipitation as observed in recent years. As an example, harmonic mean flows calculated using data from 2009 and 2010, with heavy rains and flooding, might not result in sufficiently protective minerals limitations for waterbodies. Conversely, harmonic mean flows calculated using data from 2011 and 2012, with extreme drought conditions, might be overly restrictive. Many other states use a minimum of 10 years data, and up to 30 years or more data for harmonic mean flows to be fairly representative and result in limitations that are neither insufficiently protective nor unnecessarily restrictive. While not ideal, we respectfully request that 4 cfs continue to be used as a default value in the absence of more accurate long-term flow data.