

Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

DRAFT JACKS FORK RIVER TMDL
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Meeting
April 10, 2003

**Jacks Fork River
WBID # 2681**

Shannon County, Mo.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
800-361-4827 / 573-751-1300

April 18, 2003

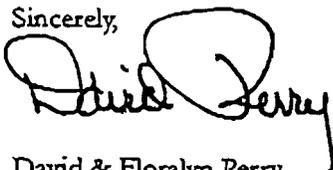
Mr. Richard Dunn
Director
Missouri Department of Health
912 Wildwood Dr.
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Dear Mr. Dunn,

We recently attended a meeting at Winfield's General Store in Eminence, Missouri concerning harmful levels of bacteria in the Jack's Fork River. We drove 450 miles one way to attend the meeting because as property owners planning retirement in the Eminence area we felt a deep concern for the river's health. We felt that officials from the Geological Survey, EPA, and Conservation Departments were very informed and non biased in the opening phases of the meeting. Sandra Clifford and Anne Peery, as well as Jerri Davis did an excellent job of presenting the problem without pointing fingers.

We were however appalled when Mr. Ronald Gaston of the health department led an apparent attack on the floaters as the cause of the high bacteria levels. We thought those in public health would be protecting the rights of all users of the river, not pointing fingers at one particular group! Additionally Mr. Gaston even raised questions as to the validity of his fellow governmental agency, the USGS, concerning the collection and sampling of the river's water. In a final statement made at the meeting the moderator stated, "Our goal is to avoid limiting the number of people coming here." This certainly isn't the way to promote harmony and cooperation! It is our understanding that the public health department is there for the public's health and not to point fingers at river users when the apparent problem with the river and the group that is polluting it is so readily apparent! We hope this letter will receive the proper attention that it deserves and that you will be able to direct Mr. Gaston in a more useful direction in the future!

Sincerely,



David & Floralyn Perry

SR

cc: Jackie Smith, Administrator
402 South 1st St.
Houston, Missouri 65483

955 FLETCHER AVE.
WATERLOO, IOWA
50701



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010



Bob Holden
Governor

Richard C. Dunn
Director

May 9, 2003

David and Floralyn Perry
955 Fletcher Ave
Waterloo, IA 50701

Subject: Texas County Health Department Employee's Statement at the Jack's Fork River
TMDL Public Meeting

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated April 18, 2003, expressing your concern about the statements Mr. Ron Gaston of the Texas County Health Department made at the April 10, 2003, public meeting in Eminence, Missouri. As you know, Mr. Gaston is not an employee of the State of Missouri; therefore, the Department of Health and Senior Services does not have the authority to directly instruct him regarding the remarks he made at that meeting. I am referring your concerns, along with a copy of your letter, to Ms. Jackie Smith, the Administrator of the Texas County Health Department for her consideration.

Based on the information I have received from Mr. Gale Carlson of my staff, who attended the meeting and is familiar with the issues surrounding the concern about human health risk from exposure to the Jack's Fork river water, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services fully supports the activities the Department of Natural Resources is proposing to reduce bacterial contamination levels in the river. In addition, based on our continuing review of the data being collected by the United States Geological Survey, the Department of Health and Senior Services believes the data accurately reflects the conditions causing the elevated levels of bacteria in the river.

If you have any further concerns or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Gale Carlson at your convenience at our toll free number, (866) 628-9891.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Dunn
Director

RCD:GC:pli

cc: Ms. Jackie Smith
Mr. Bryant McNally
Mr. Scott Clardy

www.dhss.state.mo.us

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services protects and promotes quality of life and health for all Missourians by developing and implementing programs and systems that provide: information and education, effective regulation and oversight, quality services, and surveillance of diseases and conditions.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

TEXAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

402 S. FIRST
HOUSTON, MO 65483
(417)967-4131

*C: Bryant
Mahnec
Tricia*

July 11, 2003

David & Floralyn Perry
955 Fletcher Avenue
Waterloo, IA 50701

Dear Mr. & Ms. Perry:

Thank you for your comments regarding the meeting at Winfield's General Store in Eminence, Missouri. The Jack's Fork River is one of only a dozen or so federally recognized scenic riverways. Three of these national treasures are located in Missouri. In 1996 Missouri Department of Natural Resources was sued by the Environmental Protection Agency and mandated the responsibility of keeping the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of effluent below the federal government limits so the local residents and visitors to our beautiful Ozarks may continue to enjoy the riverway.

In 1994, Mr. Gaston with our department, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Health conducted extensive water sampling of this river. Based on his technical training and public health experience there is no one single cause of any bacteriological contamination of the Jack's Fork, and our only request at the first meeting, which you attended, was that Dept. of Health sample results be included in the study, which DNR and USGS has now done. Humans, horses, and the large number of sub-standard sewage systems along the waterway all contribute to contamination. However, the river has shown to be adept at cleaning its self up with bacterial levels returning to normal within short periods of time.

Our office has worked in cooperation with DNR and USGS for several years as we all share the same interest and concern for the public health and wellness of not only the citizens of Shannon County but for the visitors to our area. At the invitation of DNR to be a scheduled presenter, Mr. Gaston spoke last evening at their meeting about "Residential On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems". Again, no blame or pointing fingers is being done by public health and all agencies and their staff is committed to working together towards addressing the bacteria problems of Jack's Fork River. Currently plans are underway for an Advisory group to address possible solutions. The goal of all agencies involved is not to limit the number of people on the river but to study and implement measures to control the TMDL so that even more residents and visitors to our area can enjoy this national scenic riverway without federal intervention.

We would happy to answer any of your questions and discuss your concerns regarding this issue. Our phone number is 417-967-4131.

Sincerely,

Jackie Smith, Admin
Jackie Smith, Administrator

Texas County Health Department
402 S. First
Houston, MO 65483

cc: Mr. Richard Durn

Ted Haviland
Summersville, Missouri

Bayart



April 21, 2003

Mr. Richard Dunn
Director
Missouri Department of Health
912 Wildwood Dr.
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Dear Mr. Dunn,

As a long time resident of Shannon and Texas counties and an ardent user of the Jacks Fork River, I was interested in the meeting held in Eminence concerning the TMDL problem on the river. The people from MDC, USGS and EPA were very professional and well informed in their presentation of the facts in the matter and in their proposals for correcting these problems.

Imagine my shock and chagrin when Ron Gaston from the local office of the Health Department stood in the middle of the room and proceeded to accuse the USGS, probably one of the most professional and un-biased agencies in the country, of faking samples and intentionally slanting the results of their testing! This man is a disgrace to his office and in my personal opinion, he needs a muzzle.

While the other agencies present were trying to bring together the varied groups and organizations to SOLVE our problems, all Mr. Gaston did with his tirade was incite dissent and distrust in the very people who are trying to save the river and the businesses who depend on it.

To her credit, Sharon Clifford of the DNR did a phenomenal job presenting the facts and the options open to all concerned parties and I look forward to working with her agency in the future.

I only hope that your agency will do everything in its power to show the cooperation necessary to successfully implement a TMDL program that will protect the river, the businesses and the public who use this beautiful area.

Sincerely,

Ted Haviland
Stream Team #713
"The Upper Jacks Fork River Rats"



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010



Richard C. Dunn
Director

Bob Holden
Governor

May 9, 2003

Mr. Ted Haviland
21846 King Drive
Summersville, MO 65571

Subject: Texas County Health Department Employee's Statement at the Jack's Fork River
TMDL Public Meeting

Dear Mr. Haviland:

Thank you for your letter dated April 21, 2003, to Mr. Richard Dunn expressing your concern about the statements Mr. Ron Gaston of the Texas County Health Department made at the April 10, 2003, public meeting in Eminence, Missouri. Mr. Dunn has asked me to respond to your concerns regarding Mr. Gaston. Because Mr. Gaston is not an employee of the State of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services does not have the authority to directly instruct him regarding the remarks he made at that meeting. I am referring your concerns, along with a copy of your letter, to Ms. Jackie Smith, the Administrator of the Texas County Health Department for her consideration.

Based on information I have received from Mr. Gale Carlson of my staff, who attended the meeting and is familiar with the issues surrounding the concern about human health risk from exposure to the Jack's Fork river water, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services fully supports the activities the Department of Natural Resources is proposing to reduce bacterial contamination levels in the river. In addition, based on our continuing review of the data being collected by the United States Geological Survey, we believe the data accurately reflect the conditions causing the elevated levels of bacteria in the river.

If you have further concerns or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Carlson or me at your convenience at our toll free number, (866) 628-9891.

Sincerely,


Scott A. Clardy, Administrator
Section for Environmental Public Health

SAC:GC:kas

cc: Mr. Richard Dunn
Ms. Jackie Smith
Mr. Bryant McNally

www.dhss.state.mo.us

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services enhances quality of life for all Missourians
by promoting and protecting the community's health and the well-being of citizens of all ages