

July 3, 2015

Mr. Robert Wayne  
Division of Water Resources  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
By email to Robert Wayne at [robert.j.wayne@tn.gov](mailto:robert.j.wayne@tn.gov)

Re: Proposed ARAP General Permit for Recreational Prospecting

Dear Mr. Wayne,

We are writing to communicate to you and to TDEC our full endorsement of the comments filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center regarding this proposed reissuance.

We're particularly concerned with the proposition that these activities as proposed to be authorized could be considered *de minimis* under the antidegradation provisions of Tennessee's water quality standards. The proposed permit does not sufficiently limit or control impacts to state waters to assure their protection, much less the minimal degradation needed to assert the *de minimis* exemption from antidegradation review.

We would be happy to discuss further our concerns with you. Thanks for your work to protect and preserve Tennessee's waters.

Paul E. Davis, P.E.  
TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control Director, 1988-2012  
45 Burris Court  
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Richard D. Urban, Ph.D.  
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