



# Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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Statement by

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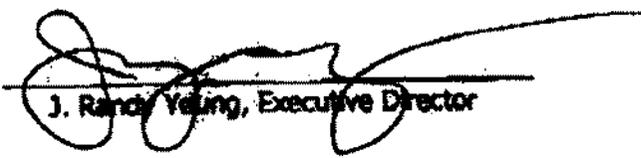
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on

Bogard Proposal

I am encouraged in the recognition of Arkansas County's groundwater depletion problem by Arkansas county farmers and by International Paper's acknowledgement of the Sparta Aquifer depletion problem in Jefferson County and the willingness of these individuals to discuss these problems and potential solutions.

However, I'm struck by the lack of detail in the agriculture portion of the proposal presented by Mr. Bogard to the White River Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District (WRRIWDD) on August 9, 1999. While many of the concepts are similar to those developed by Memphis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with WRRIWDD, the proposal contains no specifics on how its goals are to be met, no geographic boundaries can be determined, no detailed description on how groundwater savings is to be accomplished, and no estimates of the costs. The proposal envisions "50% of irrigation needs for designated crops from ground water" with expectations "that at least 25% of rice acres would be potentially benefited by use of excess surface water". The result would be either continued over-cast of both the alluvial and Sparta aquifers or reduced irrigated acreage. Neither is acceptable.

  
J. Randy Young, Executive Director

August 13, 1999