

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WATER QUALITY

Senator Steve Faris
Co-Chair

Representative Mike Burris
Co-Chair

TO: SENATOR HENRY "HANK" WILKINS, CO-CHAIR,
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN MAXWELL, CO-CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

FROM: SENATOR STEVE FARIS, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BURRIS, CO-CHAIR
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WATER QUALITY

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
WATER QUALITY

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2010

Pursuant to the provision of Act 1184 of 2009, we are submitting the report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Water Quality, for your review. The Task Force began meeting on March 16, 2010 to identify, review, assess and develop recommendations to improve the quality and safety of drinking water for public consumption. The Task Force makes the following recommendations to the Arkansas Legislative Council:

1. Designate all public drinking water sources in the state as "Critical" or "High Priority" resources; assign public drinking water sources and their watersheds as a priority in the implementation of any state program.
2. Comprehensive update of the Arkansas Water Plan.
3. Create watershed management policies to promote high quality water cognizant of the interest of all stake holders.
4. Establish a permanent legislative level Arkansas Water Quality Board/Task Force with responsibility for regular review of state issues and concerns related to maintaining purity of current or potential drinking water sources.

As published by the Arkansas Water Policy Task Force Report dated July 15, 1980, all of the water problems are interrelated quality cannot be separated from quantity, nor can ground water issues be separated from surface water issues. Water must be examined as an economic commodity as well as an environmental fact.