

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY; MICHAEL REGAN, IN HIS  
OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED  
STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY,

Defendants.

Case No. 4:22-cv-359 (BSM)

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

In accordance with the Court's August 23, 2022 order, ECF No. 33, and as represented in the parties' October 24, 2022 status report, ECF No. 34, Plaintiff Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Defendants, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michael Regan, in his official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (collectively, EPA), through counsel, respectfully submit this status report. The parties continue to hold settlement discussions and envision a multi-step settlement framework. The parties therefore continue to believe that good cause exists to further explore a global settlement of both this litigation and the related litigation pending in Circuit Court (*Arkansas Dep't of Energy and Env't. v. EPA*, Case No. 22-1831 (8th Cir.)). The parties request that the Court continue the stay to allow sufficient time for extended discussions

to take place and propose to submit another status report in 120 days, on or before February 16, 2024.

Dated: October 19, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Anna Wildeman

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