

ADEQ Short Term Activity Authorizations (STAA)

Short term activity authorizations are required, along with individual water quality certifications, for any stream activity in Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERW), Ecologically Sensitive Waters (ESW) or Natural and Scenic Waters (N&SW). Examples of these in your area of the state are the Caddo River, Little Missouri River, and Ouachita River. A complete list can be found on the ADEQ website. In other streams you are encouraged to apply for a STAA if the stream activity has the potential to create a water quality standards violation (typically turbidity), i.e. a wetted stream. If the stream is dry when the activity is undertaken, then the STAA is not needed. The STAA will protect you against any enforcement activity prompted by an ADEQ inspector responding to a citizen complaint about in-stream activity. There is a \$200 fee for issuance of a STAA, with exceptions being emergency work following a natural disaster, or a Arkansas Game and Fish Stream Team bank restoration project. The STAA process usually takes seven to ten days, following receipt of the fee. If work is planned in the ERW, ESW, or N&SW streams, then a 30 day public notice is required, then an individual water quality certification will be issued, along with the short term activity authorization.

The STAA process is initiated by an email or letter request, explaining the purpose and need for the project, the anticipated time to complete the in stream work, the stream name and section, range, township location, and a copy of a map showing the project location. Once the request is received, ADEQ will assign an internal tracking number to be referenced on the submitted check for the fee. The completed STAA will contain conditions to be followed during the in stream activity, such as erosion control measures, use of best management practices, limiting equipment in the stream as much as possible, etc. A time limit for the STAA will also be included.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Singleton, ADEQ Water Division by email at SINGLETON@adeq.state.ar.us or call 501-682-0645.