



**DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
GOVERNOR

Shane E. Khoury
SECRETARY

March 26, 2024

Dan Olsen
Forrest Supervisor
United States Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902
Via email: dan.olsen@usda.gov

RE: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Comments Requested by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regarding the Heavener Coal Leasing Project

Dear Mr. Olsen,

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Heavener Coal Leasing Project being considered for the Ouachita National Forrest.

At this stage of review, DEQ can provide only generalized comments on issues to consider during plan development. We request the opportunity to review the final plans and environmental impact statement (EIS) when they become available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lucy Cross'.

Lucy Cross
Director of Enterprise Services, Division of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

LC: vdk