



## Arkansas Department of Health

---

### NORTH EAST REGIONAL OFFICE

#### Sharp County Health Unit

724 Ash Flat Dr • Ash Flat, AR 72513 • Telephone: (870) 994-7364 • Fax: (870) 994-7117

Governor Mike Beebe

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

2-12-14

City of Jonesboro Planning  
Otis Spriggs  
300 South Church  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

RE: Mobile vs. Permanent Retail Food Service Facilities

Dear Mr. Spriggs:

It has come to the attention of this office that the City of Jonesboro is interested in allowing the Mobile Food Establishments to set up and serve foods on a permanent/semi-permanent basis. According to the *Arkansas Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Retail Food Establishments* (AR Food Code):

*Mobile retail food establishment means a vehicle mounted food service establishment designed to be readily movable and approved by LAW to travel highways, roadways, and/or waterways in the state of Arkansas that is a self contained RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT equipped with permanently mounted fresh water holding tanks and waste holding tanks.*

Due to the fact that a mobile food establishment has permanently mounted fresh and wastewater holding tanks, they are required to dump wastewater into an Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) approved waste servicing area and refill the fresh water tank from an ADH approved source. In order to accomplish this, they would need to obtain a contract with a recreational vehicle park or other approved facility where they can go on a daily basis to dump their waste and refill with fresh water.

If the facility stays at a location on a permanent/semi-permanent basis, they cease to be mobile and would require licensing as a permanent retail food facility and additional requirements would be necessary. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- All plumbing inside the facility would be subject to the requirements of the State Plumbing Code and would require approval from either the local or state plumbing inspector. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- A utility sink to be used to dispose of wastewater from cleaning and mopping of the facility
  - A restroom for use by the employees (can be a public restroom that is located within 500 linear feet)
  - A grease trap to protect the sewer from fats, oils, and greases
- A permanent connection to an ADH approved potable water source along with a permanent connection to an approved public sewer supply or an ADH approved onsite wastewater (septic) system.

You may contact me at the Sharp County Health Unit, 870-994-7364 with any questions you may have in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jackson, R.S.  
Northeast Region Sr. Food Program Specialist  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Sharp County Health Unit

Cc: File

Danny Eddy, R.S., Craighead County Environmental Health Specialist  
Kathleen Shannon, Craighead County Environmental Health Specialist  
Gregory Hogue, R.S., NE Region Environmental Manager  
Matt Myers, ADH Plumbing Inspector—NE Region