

January 28, 2008

Dear Apex Herald Editor,

On Monday evening, January 14, 2008 a meeting with representative residents bordering the South Cary Wastewater Treatment Facility was held to voice their complaints and express concerns with this sewage plant. Approximately twenty residents attended. They only brought a core group of folks to this public forum vs. a large group of disgruntled home owners.

Cary attendees included Cary Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, Cary Council Member Don Frantz, Cary Town Manager Bill Coleman, Cary Utilities Director Rob Boone, the Sewage Plant Manager and several Cary staff members.

The South Cary Wastewater Treatment Facility is the same facility the Western Wake Partners (WWP) which includes the towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs, and Morrisville repeatedly points to as a model example of a sewage plant where people knowingly bought homes right next to this sewage plant and live in total harmony. Several tours of this sewage plant have been offered to New Hill residents to try to convince us that this sewage plant incorporates the newest technologies available and that it doesn't smell. Several New Hill residents have taken the tour and found it did smell.

Community representatives complained about many aspects of the South Cary Wastewater Treatment Facility.

- Concern for children's health
 - They wanted to know what chemicals are in the odor.
 - Sometimes the gas odor burns their face.
NOTE: This sounds a lot like the concerns Apex residents expressed after the EQ explosion which was a one time event. The sewage plant is permanent.
- Homes can't be sold
 - Because of the reoccurring odor problems, home values are steadily decreasing making homes difficult or impossible to sell.
 - Sales are being lost.
- Odor frequency
 - Odor is smelled mostly at night, weekends, and on holidays when most families and children want to be outside.
- Odor impact
 - Odor is so bad that it stinks up their homes.
 - Forces home owner to keep windows closed.
 - They can't take advantage of outside fresh air.
 - Not able to enjoy their backyards or screened in porches.
 - Feel like they are locked inside their homes.
- Plant maintenance
 - Residents know when tanks and manholes are being cleaned because odor is worse.
 - They believe transportation of sludge contributes to the odor problem.
- Not receiving value for their town taxes
 - They are not realizing a benefit from living in the area.
 - Believe they should be getting a refund on taxes, not an increase.
- Impacting relatives and friends
 - They are reluctant to invite relatives or friends over to enjoy their homes.
 - When relatives or friends are invited to their homes, they pray that it won't smell.
- Real Estate agents and home builders
 - During the buying process they were "assured" that there would be no odor.

- They even had to sign a waiver when buying their home stating that they knew they were buying a home adjacent to a sewer plant. Now they know why this was a requirement for home purchase!
- Sewage plant location
 - They wanted to know why build homes so close to this type of facility.
- Noise pollution
 - They experience terrible noise problems from diesel generators. Sounds like a plane is landing in their backyard.
 - Homes shake when the diesel generators are running.
- Light pollution
 - The night lights are so bright that it is like living inside a city.
 - Lights are on all night.
- Truck traffic
 - Delivery / maintenance truck drivers blow their horns at 5 AM to gain entry into the sewage plant.
 - Trucks are constantly speeding along the roads leading to the sewage plant.
 - There are no sidewalks, kids are at risk while going to or coming from school.
- Fixes haven't worked
 - Over the past two years, many attempts to correct the many problems noted above have failed.
 - Latest fixes have cost \$654,000 and problems still exists.
 - What assurances are there that retaining another "expert" and taking another six months will resolve anything?
 - No assurances were made, only that everything was being done that could be done.

I need to stress the fact that all along we have stated how these same issues are a concern to the New Hill community and how this would affect New Hill especially considering WWP continuing lack of concern for the New Hill community, New Hill Historic District, churches, cemeteries, playgrounds, minority and elderly residents living closest to Site 14.

New Hill has been a community for almost two centuries not two years like the folks bordering the South Cary sewage plant. New Hill was here first. New Hill residents didn't move here knowing that the plant was there. This is exemplified by WWP's desire to power the plant with electricity from Apex that is subject to failure on a regular basis, when a large dependable Progress Energy power distribution system is available on site. Not using existing PE power will cause more impacts to New Hill residents because more land will be condemned for installation of power lines from Apex.

The New Hill Community Association (NHCA) wants this supporting data of expected impacts to the New Hill community included in the detailed analysis currently being done for WWP preferred New Hill site. A better alternative site exists only one mile away on PE property.

Paul Barth
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