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## **Condemnation upsets farm owners A New Hill family owned the 221-acre tract for decades; Cary plans a sewage plant there**

**By RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH, Staff Writer**

A New Hill family has not decided how to respond to the town of Cary's condemnation of its farm, according to a legal representative.

The town plans to use the 221-acre property for a controversial sewage treatment plant.

After negotiations stalled last month, Cary officials filed the condemnation in Wake Superior Court on Aug. 11 and took control of the land for \$3.38 million.

Retired Apex police Officer Al Seymour III and several relatives owned the property, which had been in the family for decades.

"The family is pretty upset," said Caroline Pedersen, a

paralegal for Raleigh attorney Emmett Boney Haywood, who is representing them. "They just want the dust to settle as they try to digest it."

The family has until mid-December to contest the price, which was based on an appraisal last year by an Apex company. They could also choose to fight the condemnation, though those cases are difficult to win, said County Attorney Mike Ferrell.

The town will now begin the plant's design, surveying the site, testing the soil and engineering the treatment plant. It will also apply for a permit from the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Residents of the New Hill area, an unincorporated community in southwestern Wake County, have protested the sewage plant, which is being built in partnership with the towns of Apex, Morrisville and Holly Springs.

Meanwhile, the family is mourning the loss of a place where Seymour took his border collies swimming in the pond, fed geese and grew day lilies and timber.

"Their heritage has been taken away from them," Pedersen said. "Their choices and options on what they wanted to do on the land have been taken away."

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