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## **Costs led towns to pick New Hill for plant**

**By TOBY COLEMAN**

**THE ISSUE:** Why did Apex, Cary and Morrisville officials decide to build a sewage treatment plant in the unincorporated community of New Hill?

**THE STATUS:** The towns paid \$3.38 million this month to condemn a 221-acre farm in New Hill. Owners have until December to challenge the condemnation.

**THE DEAL:** Money loomed large in this decision. The towns say they do not have to spend as much to build in New Hill.

That bothers New Hill residents, who say the towns disregarded consultants' suggestions to build the plant where it would bother fewer people, on land to the south and east New Hill.

"They changed the rules of the game," said Tonya

Forbes of the New Hill Community Association.

She's not surprised by the outcome, though. She said Cary has been talking about putting a plant in New Hill for years.

But Cary officials say they didn't pick New Hill without looking elsewhere. They say the towns examined about 30 potential sites in Chatham and Wake counties.

In 2004, consultants ranked the best 12 on a variety of factors. The New Hill site ranked fifth.

But the towns rejiggered the rankings after Holly Springs announced that it would not pump waste to the plant. It didn't make sense to spend money to pump waste past New Hill and toward Holly Springs.

After the shuffle, three properties remained: the New Hill farm, a 141-acre site in Chatham and a 178-acre site near Apex.

Among those three, the New Hill farm was the clear winner.

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