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Record 1 of 1

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June 25, 2005

Dumping on New Hill

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Despite pleas from **New Hill** residents and a resolution from the Wake County commissioners calling for a 30-day delay, the Cary Town Council has voted to initiate condemnation of private land in the center of historic **New Hill** for the Western Wake wastewater treatment facility (June 24 article "**New Hill** folks fume over Cary sewer vote"). Cary was acting on behalf of the Western Wake Partners, which includes the towns of Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville.

The partners have chosen to ignore the site evaluation of their own engineers, which indicated that three sites on nearby Progress Energy land were more favorable. When asked to explain, Mayor Ernie McAlister referred to additional ranking criteria that were recently applied. These criteria, which somehow created a cost increase of \$27 million for the Progress Energy sites, have not been made public, and they are not available on the informational Web site published by the Western Wake Partners.

Representatives from Progress Energy have indicated that they are willing to consider placement of the facility on Progress Energy land. Yet, not only have the Western Wake Partners never attempted to contact Progress Energy with a formal request, they have steadfastly refused to consider doing so, citing those mysterious **new** criteria.

Something smells in Western Wake County.

Tonya Forbes

New Hill

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