

Daniel M. Blaisdell, P.E.  
Assistant Chief, Engineering Branch  
Construction Grants and Loans Section  
North Carolina Division of Water Quality  
1633 Mil Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1633

June 26, 2006

Dear Mr. Blaisdell,

I am writing to protest the Western Wake Partners' selection of sites in New Hill for the purpose of a sewage plant. I believe that this project will put the community's drinking water supply at risk.

Cary has a dismal record of sewage spills and leaks. Just during the month of June, 2006, they have had two major leaks/spills that reached major streams and lakes.

The selected site for the sewage plant is located several miles from any of the municipalities that will use it. Raw sewage will have to be pumped from those municipal borders to the plant site. The people of New Hill rely on wells for their drinking water. If a leak occurs, and especially if it is not detected quickly, raw sewage could easily find its way into our wells. This is a hazard unlike what is experienced by citizens who reside within the municipal borders—if they experience a sewage spill, it is indeed an environmental hazard; however, they will still have safe drinking water.

Can you imagine a **several million gallon raw sewage spill** in our community? Think about how long it will take to clean up that mess, and how much money it will cost to clean our ponds, forests and fields, and to find sources of uncontaminated drinking water. Think about how long the stench from a **several million gallons of raw sewage spill** will remain in our community. If this happens in New Hill, we will not only be known as the home for the nuclear plant, but also for having uninhabitable land because of Cary's inability to manage a sewage plant.

The proposed routes for pumping the raw sewage go through areas in which a spill might not be detected for days or longer. For example, if the pipelines follow the Progress Energy power transmission lines, they will go through farms and timber land. These lands are not observed on a daily basis, and significant spillage might occur before a problem is noted.

One has to ask if it is just to subject a community to hazards from a project from which they will not benefit. (While the Western Wake Partners will argue that New Hill residents can "hook up" to the facility, for all intents and purposes that will not be true for many years—at least a decade, according to sources in Apex.)

The risk could be eliminated by siting sewage treatment facilities closer to the municipal borders and then pumping the *treated* sewage to a regional facility. In this way, the towns that make up the Western Wake Partners could still fulfill the requirements of the inter-basin transfer without putting the citizens of New Hill at risk.

I am asking that DENR reject this project and that the WWP be required to study the possible impacts of a large spill to the New Hill community before going forward with this project.

Sincerely,