

Masthead



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## Hearing on proposed New Hill plant next week

### Residents can discuss New Hill project

BY SADIA LATIFI - Staff Writer

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources wants to hear from residents about a draft permit for a proposed \$327 million sewage plant in New Hill.

The department will hold a public hearing on Tuesday in Apex - a required part of its process in determining whether to issue a permit allowing Apex, Cary and Morrisville to discharge treated wastewater into the Cape Fear River just below the Buckhorn Dam.

The Western Wake Regional Water Reclamation Facility was developed to manage growth and satisfy an environmental mandate from the state for the towns to return treated wastewater to the same river basin they used as a drinking source - the Cape Fear River.

The draft permit allows 18 million gallons per day of treated wastewater to be discharged into the Cape Fear River.

Future expansion would go up to 30 million gallons per day.

The permit also includes proposed limits for nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen.

Construction for the first phase of the facility is expected to be finished by January 2013.

The hearing comes two weeks after a group representing New Hill residents filed a petition that challenges the placement of the treatment plant in their unincorporated community in southwestern Wake County.

The petition, filed at the state Office of Administrative Hearings, charges that DENR issued a water quality certificate to the Western Wake towns based on insufficient information.

The New Hill Community Association, which filed the petition, is being represented by the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a Durham nonprofit group that helps minority and low-income communities.

The hearing will take place at 7 p.m. in Apex Town Hall, located at 73 Hunter Street.

Registration for speakers will begin at 5:30 p.m.

A written copy of comments should also be submitted.

Proposed limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and other discharge parameters can be found in the draft permit and the proposed permit fact sheet.

The draft permit is available online at [tinyurl.com/23ted5](http://tinyurl.com/23ted5).

Copies of the draft permit are also available by contacting Gil Vinzani at 919-807-6395. Written comments may also be submitted by sending an e-mail to [Gil.Vinzani@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Gil.Vinzani@ncdenr.gov).

The comment period ends Tuesday.

If approved, the permit is scheduled to be issued in December 2010.

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