

Your Letters, Aug. 30

Inescapable irony

I hauled drinking water from my home in New Hill to a veterinary clinic in Cary so the animals wouldn't drink E. coli-contaminated water. The irony of this, when Cary's leadership is forcefully pushing a plan to pump its sewage into the center of my town, was inescapable.

Cary's proposal doesn't include a plan to provide clean water to the citizens, livestock and pets of New Hill when their highly pressurized sewage pipes burst and contaminate our wells. The lack of such a plan, particularly in light of its recent 8-million-gallon sewage spill, is ludicrous and shows a complete lack of concern by Cary's project planners for its neighbors. It was one of the many reasons the Hearing Officers wrote to the state Division of Water Quality stating, "After hearing oral comments, reading written comments and consulting with technical experts in DENR [Department of Environmental and Natural Resources], it is our recommendation that you do not accept the April 2006 draft EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] (for the sewage treatment facility) as an accurate, complete and adequate document."

The reasons were all ones that New Hill citizens had tried in vain to bring to the attention of Cary's leaders, including lack of local input, the targeting of a minority community, impact on historic zones, churches and retirement homes, inaccurate service-factor analysis, the existence of readily available land that had already been condemned for a public utility project and the environmentally safer option of pumping treated effluent rather than raw sewage over long distances. Because of the recommended rejection of the EIS, Cary's leadership has a second chance. Please work with the people of New Hill towards a solution that is in the best interest of all affected parties. Please treat us as more than a ZIP code!

*Dr. David Bristol
New Hill*

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