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Mr. Blaisdell,

My name is Whitmel M. Joyner, and I have lived in New Hill for twenty years. Life in New Hill is naturally pleasant and healthy for its citizens, and I have been quite happy here. But events of the last year have put the high quality of life that New Hill offers under a great threat.

The group known as the Western Wake Partnership has filed a draft Environmental Impact Statement supporting its plan to locate a sewage treatment plant squarely in the middle of my community, at the front door of one of New Hill's decades-old churches and at the back door of another of its old community houses of worship. This plant is planned to have 1) several miles of four-foot-diameter pipeline bringing raw filth to the center of New Hill from towns miles away, 2) a wastewater treatment operation abutting these churches with its unavoidable odors and ugliness, and 3) more four-foot-diameter pipe to remove the treated effluent to the Cape Fear River. In addition, the sewage sludge from this plant, with inescapable amounts of toxic metals, chemical soup of unknown contents, and other things that happen to get flushed into our community, will have to be pumped into trucks or railcars and hauled away. The thundering of these trucks, at any hours of the day and night, will damage the quality of life in their path—my life and that of my neighbors. (The draft EIS, I believe, does not even mention railcar transport, easily the cheapest and safest way to take this mess away from the plant. But as other New Hill residents have told you, there are serious questions about the cost accounting used to support this draft.)

Almost everyone would admit that this waste treatment plant is needed. I devoutly hope that DENR will reject the proposed EIS. New Hill is one of the worst places in Wake County that this sewage operation could be built, and expensive technical studies by the Partnership attest to that very point. Just as well, New Hill neighbors have expressed this same opinion, in public hearing and in letters, and we have offered detailed, reasoned, and reliable analysis to support our point. A great deal of these data are in your hands as you assay this EIS draft, and I don't want simply to repeat a great deal of what you have before you.

But as I write this very letter, the TV and newspapers continue to report further Cary sewer system failures, in a string of incompetence, of accident that overwhelms any Cary plans to deal with them, and of false and misleading statements (actually lies) by those responsible for correcting Cary's errors and mishaps. In mid-June, yet another "upset" of a Cary sewage plant spilled around three-quarters of a million gallons of filth into Lake Crabtree, where families like to picnic and enjoy the water and the shore. The amount of the spill could have been curbed considerably with a timely effort, but someone obviously not suited to his job refused for hours, say the news media, to try even to find the line break. He was afraid of "bugs", the rain, that his canoe might turn over, and that he would be attacked by lots

of "snakes" that we don't have in our part of the world. "We don't think it's safe to have people out in canoes with the snakes and everything," he is quoted.

As I write you this letter, the once-beautiful Swift Creek, Lake Wheeler, and Lake Benson are trying to empty themselves of over three million gallons of raw and toxic waste leaked by a broken pumping station in Cary. Lake conditions render them unfit for boating, fishing, and swimming until they can clear themselves. Note that a Cary "official spokeswoman" was quoted as saying the amount that got out was around 200,000 gallons. This is the same flack who told the media months ago that the New Hill land Cary had condemned for its treatment plant was "not a working farm" and that the spills and stench from it won't bother any New Hill residents, all of which is one lie strung upon another. These are the same people who get to estimate their sewage losses and the costs of their plans, and there is considerable reason to doubt their calculations.

Cary is by far the worst civic entity in Wake County, according to public statistics, at operating such essential facilities, from 400% to 1000% more likely to lose control of its sewage and have it foul the waterways, the ground, and the water table underneath the earth.

And also as I write you this letter, there are dozens of large trucks pounding the roads in and out of the useless Swift Creek pump station, trying to remove the 5 million gallons of sewage that goes into it every day. The trucks continue their loops in and out of the plant, one every ten minutes(!), while Cary waits several days for some pumps to arrive from New Jersey. What is this, a Keystone Kops movie from the 1920s? My gods, we've had a good heavy rain, not a tropical storm, and far from any hurricane.

I can state two things to you that I know to be thoroughly true of New Hill and its people, and that I hope will inform your estimation of the draft EIS.

1) A blizzard of errors, stumbles, ludicrous statements about rainfall, and other ineptness has jam filled the news media recently, leaving it crystal clear that Cary is sinfully unable to keep its sewage plants and water courses decent, and it can not be expected to do any better with more treatment plants and other people's water.

2) If the proposed sewage operation is located so that untreated influent has a short way to go to be rendered, and the treated effluent lines get buried almost anywhere in and/or through the New Hill community, not one iota of opposition will appear to the project.

You have the power and the responsibility to keep us and our homes free from the threat of such incompetence and overbearing presumption. Please do not leave us, helpless, in the path of this huge continuing threat. A failure of it, all too likely from the record of its operators, could devastate our lives.

With great sincerity,

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