

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

June 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Blaisdell,

I would like to call to your attention the unjust treatment of New Hill residents by the Western Wake Partners (WWP) during the planning stages of their proposed sewage plant.

The WWP have deliberately and repeatedly violated North Carolina's open meetings laws, and have purposefully endeavored to keep the public that would be most directly affected by this planned facility as uninformed as possible for as long as possible. To this day, they continue to disseminate misleading information. The New Hill Community Association (NHCA) has documented some of the evidence that demonstrates the WWP's intent in this regard. This information was provided to DENR representatives at the June 15 public meeting. I entreat you to carefully review the information we have provided and consider all our concerns thoroughly. I believe our findings reveal a pattern of intent to withhold information from the public. Not only did the WWP fail to inform New Hill citizens about this project, they ignored DENR's own advice to make a greater effort to involve the public than is normally required.

Environmental Justice requires that input be sought from citizens who will be most affected by projects such as this sewage plant. At the very least, those citizens should be kept informed and should have access to meetings at which decisions about the project will be made. This did not happen during the planning for this sewage plant. The most egregious violation occurred when the actual site selection for the project was made by staff from the four WWP towns at an unannounced, closed meeting. Representatives from NHCA have asked for minutes of that meeting, but we have only received an email telling us who made the decision, and no officially recorded minutes. Why town staff bypassed sites selected by taxpayer funded engineering consultants in favor of three hastily added sites in the New Hill community remains a mystery to this day.

I ask that DENR hold the WWP responsible their violation of the public trust. Require them to renew the site selection process—this time conducting open, public meetings and accepting input from the population that will be most affected by whatever sites are considered. Undoubtedly, the WWP will argue that if they are forced to revisit site selection, it will delay the project. It is their own clandestine action and dubious site selection process which mandates this delay, and the citizens of New Hill should not be made to suffer for the WWP's failure to meet the most basic requirements of public notification and involvement.

Please do not reward the WWP by allowing this project to proceed at this dubiously selected site. Allowing this project to go forward makes a mockery of the laws and regulations that have been put in place to protect citizens of this state from just this type of abuse. By insisting the WWP reconsider the process and conduct their planning in a proper manner, DENR can send a message to planners of

cc: New Hill Community Association (NHCA)

all such projects—that abuse of the citizens of this state will not be tolerated, especially in the name of “progress.”

Thank you,

Kate Hanser, 3000 Old US 1 Hwy, New Hill, NC

Cyndi Karoly
North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ)
1650 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1650

June 27, 2006

Dear Ms. Karoly,

I would like to call to your attention the many ways in which the Western Wake Partners (WWP) have failed to comply with public notification and environmental justice considerations during the planning stages of their proposed sewage plant.

The WWP have deliberately and repeatedly violated North Carolina's open meetings laws, and have demonstrably tried to keep the public that would be most directly affected by this planned facility as uninformed as possible for as long as possible. To this day, they continue to spread misleading information. The New Hill Community Association (NHCA) has collected much evidence that demonstrates the WWP's intent in this regard. This documentation was provided to DENR representatives at the June 15 public meeting in Apex. Please carefully review the information we have gathered and consider all our concerns thoroughly. Our findings suggest a pattern of intent to withhold information from the public. Not only did the WWP fail to inform New Hill citizens about this project, they ignored DENR's own advice to make a greater effort to involve the public than is normally required.

Environmental Justice requires that input be sought from citizens who will be most affected by projects such as this sewage plant. At the very least, those citizens should be kept informed and should have access to meetings at which decisions about the project will be made. This did not happen during the planning for this sewage plant. The most egregious violation occurred when the actual site selection for the project was made by staff from the four WWP towns at an unannounced, closed meeting. Representatives from NHCA have asked for minutes of that meeting, but we have only received an email telling us who made the decision, and no officially recorded minutes. Why town staff bypassed sites selected by taxpayer funded engineering consultants in favor of three hastily added sites in the New Hill community remains a mystery to this day.

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Please do not reward the WWP by allowing this project to proceed at this dubiously selected site. Allowing this project to go forward makes a mockery of the laws and regulations that have been put in place to protect citizens of this state from precisely this sort of abuse. By insisting the WWP reconsider the process and conduct their planning in a proper manner, DENR can send a message to

cc: New Hill Community Association (NHCA)

planners of all such projects—that abuse of the citizens of this state will not be tolerated, especially in the name of “progress.”

Thank you,

Kate Hanser, 3000 Old US 1 Hwy, New Hill, NC

Mr. Monte Matthews
Raleigh Regulatory Field Office
6508 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 120
Raleigh, NC 27615

June 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Matthews,

I would like to call to your attention the many ways in which the Western Wake Partners (WWP) have failed to comply with public notification and environmental justice considerations during the planning stages of their proposed sewage plant.

The WWP have deliberately and repeatedly violated North Carolina's open meetings laws, and have demonstrably tried to keep the public that would be most directly affected by this planned facility as uninformed as possible for as long as possible. To this day, they continue to spread misleading information. The New Hill Community Association (NHCA) has collected much evidence that demonstrates the WWP's intent in this regard. This documentation was provided to DENR representatives at the June 15 public meeting in Apex. Please carefully review the information we have gathered and consider all our concerns thoroughly. Our findings suggest a pattern of intent to withhold information from the public. Not only did the WWP fail to inform New Hill citizens about this project, they ignored DENR's own advice to make a greater effort to involve the public than is normally required.

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Kate Hanser, 3000 Old US 1 Hwy, New Hill, NC