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New Hill Residents Protest Water Facility

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WAKE COUNTY, N.C. - People in New Hill area say they are fighting to keep a water reclamation facility out of their historic community.

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"The main reason we're opposed to it is because the location is right in the center of the New Hill community," resident Paul Barth said.

The Western Wake Partners, which includes the towns of Cary, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville, are closer to having a location for their Regional Waste Water Management Facility, but Town of Cary Public Works Director Mike Bajorek says other areas are being considered.

"We are currently in the permit process with the Corps of Engineers and they are working with Director of Water Quality," Bajorek said.

The facility will be similar to the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility off West Lake Road. This plant has been around for nineteen years and homes have been built just yards away from the entrance.

Some residents in the Cary neighborhood are experiencing the problems that Barth wants to prevent in his community.

"I'd say twenty to thirty days out of the year you can smell it and we're not very happy about it and we've made our complaint," Cary resident Brian Rendon said.

Adam Smith who lives in that home just a block away says the plant is not a problem.

"I don't know if it's worse because of the wind patters associated with it and I haven't notice it. It's not going to be anything to cause us to move," Smith said.

Apex Town Manager Bruce Radford says the Corp of Engineers will approve the final location by the spring. The project has to be completed by 2012 because of a state water mandate.

"Inter-Basin Transfer means to take the water that you drink out of one basin and put it back in the same basin," Radford said.

Barth said he wants to preserve what is left of his community.

"Our main concern is that they are taking a residential neighborhood that has a lot of historic ties into an industrial place," Barth said.

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