

From The Apex Herald August 31, 2006

An open letter to the citizens of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs, and Morrisville, the towns making up the Western Wake Partners (WWP):

New Hill citizens will once again appear before your town councils asking for cooperation on the siting and impacts of the proposed sewage treatment plant in New Hill. We will ask your elected officials to direct their staff to remedy the many issues addressed in the report on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a seven page report addressing the inaccuracy, incompleteness, and inadequacy of the draft EIS. (The report may be read at: NewHillca.org).

Many of the concerns cited by DENR are the same concerns New Hill residents have been expressing for the past year. It is time for New Hill residents to be included in this process.

The DENR report directs the WWP to

- address irregularities in the site selection criteria, calculations, and process;
- to revisit the impact of the project on low-income and minority residents, who will be disproportionately affected;
- to further evaluate property currently owned by Progress Energy;
- to address potential secondary and cumulative impacts to the New Hill area; and
- to seek public input.

DENR insists that these issues be addressed—this time adequately, correctly, and with public input. DENR's response was very clear:

“...it is our recommendation that you do not consider the April 2006 Draft EIS as an accurate, complete, and adequate document.”

In the past year, many of your town council members have publicly stated they do not feel the selected site is the best site for the facility. Now is the time for them to act on those statements.

Apex, Holly Springs, and Morrisville town councils: this is your opportunity to insist Cary, as the lead agency, handle this project correctly. It is not enough to point to Cary and lay blame. All four towns are partners on this project. All four towns bear the responsibility of doing the right thing.

Cary town council: we hope you heard our plea and will act on our concerns, which mirror those in the DENR report.

The New Hill Community looks forward to working with the WWP towns to find the best possible solution for the site of the proposed sewage plant.

Tonya Forbes
New Hill