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New Hill residents want to make sure their plight is not forgotten by Cary officials.

New Hill residents continue their fight

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Editor
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Just two weeks after picketing a Cary town council meeting, a determined group of New Hill residents were back at it.

About 20 residents carried signs and shouted slogans prior to the Aug. 25 meeting at the Herb Young Community Center near downtown Cary.

The residents are upset over plans by Cary, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville – the Western Wake Partners – to build a regional sewage plant in the heart of New Hill.

Unlike the last protest, however, there was very little media attention.

It was a fact that worried New Hill Community Association Vice President Dave Bristol.

“We are concerned about it,” said Bristol. “Last time, the Cary mayor pro-tem (Jack Smith) said this is old news. They already own the land and we have to take (our fight) to the state.

“Well, for us it’s not old news and it’s still going on. Members of this council could still put it back on the

table and reverse the wrong they've done to our town. We're hoping to get that message through to them."

The partners have already paid over $3.3 million to condemn a 221-acre farm just off old U.S. 1 in New Hill. The site is located near two churches and several homes.

New Hill residents have requested the partners to consider building the plant on land owned by Progress Energy, which is about a mile south of the site chosen by the four towns.

The partners claim it would cost too much money to build the sewage plant at a different location.

The process now moves onto the state level as the partners will submit an environmental impact statement to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Unfortunately, they have manipulated the process by not including sites that their own engineering firm said were superior to this one," said Bristol. "We're going to make sure DENR knows there are better choices then what they've been presented with."

The state will hold public hearings on the matter in the next few months. Until then, said Bristol, the David vs. Goliath fight goes on.

"It's discouraging that they've condemned it when there are better choices," said Bristol. "We just need to keep our energy level up and keep fighting as long as we have to."