

Subject: Answer to Responses to Comments by Cal Nordt at April 14, 2009 Meeting Regarding Wastewater Treatment Plant Site in New Hill
From: calnordt@aol.com
Date: Tue, 09 Feb 2010 16:05:19 -0500
To: Henry.M.Wicker.Jr@usace.army.mil

Cal Nordt
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Henry M. Wicker
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
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Attn: File Number 2005-20159
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

VIA Email to: Henry.M.Wicker.Jr@usace.army.mil

Dear Mr. Wicker,

I am writing regarding your Division's response to my comments at the April 14, 2009 hearing regarding the plans for the sewage plant in New Hill (page 7, items 106-111, with your responses starting on page 104).

While the response is well considered and recognizes all of my major points, the one thing that is missing an integrated understanding is the unique situation in New Hill that ties together the issues of the Historical District and of Environmental Justice. The Historical District would be greatly diminished in its impact if not considered as a whole, both physically and as an historical community. A plant such as the one planned for Site 14 in the middle of both would be disastrous for this reason.

First, it does not appear that your group fully understands that the plant site is not in "proximity" to the New Hill Historic District, but is in the center of it. Second, it does not appear that your group fully understands that the EJ issue is tied inextricably to the Historic District as the buildings are tied to the people who remain in the community.

The unusual aspect of New Hill which makes it so important historically is precisely that the two races worked together in the physical district, on farms and in remaining buildings that they owned or worked, and that the descendants of these same people still reside there. The district functioned, it could almost be said, as it would have if it had been one plantation, but in New Hill this same function came from the unified work of many people and families who each owned and worked its different parts.

Therefore the placement of the Site 14 plant in the center of all of this, between the two churches frequented by the current residents of the two races (in many cases the descendants of the people who lived in New Hill during the historic times), even though it would not necessitate the destruction of any of the actual buildings, would in fact destroy the integrity of the District as an historical artifact of both archeological and continuing human significance.

I believe that if this fact is considered and recognized, it would make no sense to put the plant where it is now planned, but a lot more sense to locate it just a mile away where it would be outside of the District and thus have no impact on either the people or the historic buildings. As this would involve no extra cost, and in fact might be less expensive to do, it would seem certain that changing the planned location is the most sensible thing to do.

I hope you will recommend this solution strongly to the Western Wake Partners.

Thank you,

Cal Nordt