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Pastor wins award for fight against sewage plant

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The New Hill community has fought the planned construction of a large sewage plant in the heart of their community for several years.

Few have battled with as much spirit and passion as First Baptist Church of New Hill Pastor James Clanton.

In recognition of his efforts, Rev. Clanton was recently named winner of the Florenza Moore Grant Community Environmental Justice Award for 2010 by the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network.

“I am honored by this prestigious award, and view it as an indication of the justness of our community’s fight against the sewage plant,” said Clanton in a written statement.

In bestowing the award, Gary Grant of the NCEJN noted, “You have been chosen based on your faithful work to protect the citizens, community and environment of New Hill.

“Your history of support and pastoral leadership in the struggle for environmental justice over the last five years is exemplary and a beacon for pastors who realize that the salvation of mankind lies in protecting the whole of Mother Earth and her inhabitants.”

On behalf of the New Hill Community Association , the Southern Coalition for Social Justice recently filed a Petition for Contested Case Hearing in the state Office of Administrative Hearings .

The Souther Coalition is challenging the Western Wake Partners’ proposed placement of a sewage treatment plant in the center of the New Hill community.

The Western Wake partners consist of Apex, Cary and Morrisville.

Dozens of New Hill residents also recently participated in a public hearing in Apex, questioning the Western Wake Partner’s plan to discharge from the proposed sewage treatment plant into a distressed portion of the Cape Fear River.