

Subject: Proposed Waste facility in the middle of New Hill

From: Bill Ott <billott@theotts.org>

Date: Wed, 22 Jun 2005 22:02:39 -0400

CC: council@townofcary.org

Dear Council members,

I am writing this note to share with you some of the key concerns that I have with the current proposal to establish a waste treatment plant in the center of New Hill, as follows:

- * The process appears flawed. When the consulting firm investigated potential sites using the agreed to criteria, the top 4 sites (including site 20, which was ranked 5th due to an error, and should have ranked #1) were south of US1. We've been told that when Holly Springs opted out of using the facility all of the sites south of US1 were excluded due to cost. However, the criteria used by the consulting firm included a weighting for cost that yielded the top 4 sites being south of US1. Holly Spring opting out did not change the cost calculations and therefore the rating should not have changed. By excluding the sites south of US1 on the basis of cost, the criteria has been usurped and effectively trashed, making cost the only weighting factor. This is in direct contradiction to the western wake partners mission statement and a sub optimization when viewed from the county or the state..
- * The current schedule appears to be a rush to condemn. On a program that spans 6 years, there appears no time to solicit and investigate the concerns of the citizens most directly affected, the New Hill Community. Around the first of June, was the first time that most New Hill citizens heard about the plan to condemn property in the center of New Hill. Since then the New Hill Community Association has been formed for the purpose of protecting the quality of life in teh New Hill Community, and, to that end, insuring that the Waste Treatment Plant is located in the best location. In the ensuing 3 weeks, association members have attended numerous meetings with all of the stake holders of the Western Wake Partners.. As a result of those meetings, we've learned the following:
 - o No one from the city has contacted the Historical Preservation Office (HPO) of the state to insure that the proposed location does not disturb any historical sites. I believe that the HPO strongly supports delaying the condemnation until a proper study can be done, give the proposed site's close proximity to Historical New Hill.
 - o No one from the city has contacted the DOT or the Rails to Trails organization to get permission to use the American Tobacco Trail (ATT) for the pipeline from Cary to the treatment plant. I believe that the Rails to Trails is strongly against the use of the ATT due to fear of damage to the tree canopy that shades much of the trail.
 - o Progress Energy has taken under consideration a proposal to give a community grant of land in lieu of money to assist in finding a common ground and an amicable settlement.

- o After a meeting with the County Commissioners, I believe they are strongly in favor of and have publicly stated their desire in delaying the condemnation until after a proper review of the top candidates and a better understanding the the impacts of the proposed site.
- o After Yesterday's Apex Town Council meeting, I believe the Apex Town Council has publicly requested a 30 day delay in the condemnation process, again, to allow for a proper review of the top candidates and a better understanding the the impacts of the proposed site.
- o The New Hill Community Association voted this week to oppose the currently proposed site and to recomend that Cary reconsider the top site(20 or 22) as chosen by the Western Wake Partners Consulting firm, described in Technical Memorandum 8.0 (which was only made publicly available on the web, this week).

Based on the above, please consider delaying your vote on condemnation until the top site (20 or 22) can be fairly evaluated and the concerns of the New Hill Community can be fully aired. Any thing short of that, I fear, will lead to prolonged and protracted efforts of all the parties at each governance, each assessment and each public milestone. One side will win, no doubt. At what cost? At what effort, when we can come together and agree on a location that benefits all and meets the mission statement of the Western Wake Partners. " The facility must be located on a site that protects citizens' quality of life. This means keeping the facility footprint as far away as possible from homes, parks, churches, playgrounds, and other areas important to citizens. The residences directly affected by a location as well as those nearby are taken into account."

Thank you, for your consideration,

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Regards,
Bill Ott

Email: [Mailto://billott@theotts.org](mailto:billott@theotts.org)

Website: <http://www.theotts.org>

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