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Residents Express Concern Over Proposed Water Treatment Plant

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 - 11:25 PM

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NEW HILL, N.C. - The First Baptist Church in New Hill was packed as residents voiced their many concerns about the plan to build a water reclamation facility in their neighborhood.

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"We respect all our neighbors and we're doing everything we can to look out for our neighbors," New Hill resident Bob Kelly said.

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers were on hand to answer questions as part of the federal process of choosing a site for the facility. Some of the concerns of the residents were odor and chemicals that could come from facility, along with traffic and a decrease to their property value. Steve Brown with the Town of Cary Public Works Department assured residents not to worry.

"This will be a brand new, state of the art facility for waste water ... and construction is such that we can minimize a lot of those problems on the front end," Brown said.

Residents have other issues with the site.

"We feel they have picked the location because the census note is so high in minorities that they figure people in that area would not fight the plan," Kelly said.

The land where Western Wake Partners proposed to build the facility is in the historic district of New Hill. Residents say there is a better location just a mile away.

"This is not a not in my backyard issue, but this is not in my front porch. I don't see any downside to moving the site," said Jackie Holcombe, Morrisville resident.

After this process is complete, the EPA will have the final say of approving or rejecting the plan. At this point, Brown assures the New Hill community they are taking all their concerns into consideration.

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