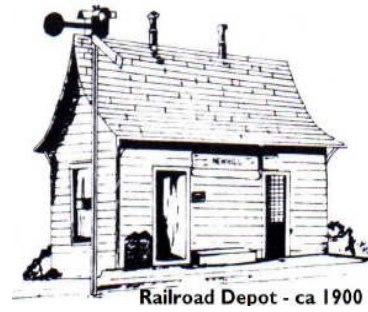


PO Box 68
New Hill, NC 27562
NewHillCA.org

January 26, 2007

Coleen H. Sullins
Deputy Director, DWQ
NC DENR
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617



Dear Ms. Sullins,

Members of our New Hill Community Association, Inc. (NHCA) have reviewed the December 22, 2006 letter submitted by the Western Wake Partners (WWP) to NC DENR.

After reviewing the WWP letter, NHCA submits our responses via the attached document.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Paul Barth
President, New Hill Community Association, Inc.
919-362-7905

cc: Mr. Daniel Blaisdell
Mr. Larry Horton
Ms. Melba McGee

New Hill Community Association, Inc.

ATTACHMENT

Environmental Justice Analysis

Reviewing Tables 1 and 2:

- Considering the multiple previous impacts to the community (e.g. Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant, Dixie Gas Pipelines, high voltage transmission lines, Jordan Lake, US 1), Environmental Justice (EJ) considerations should not only include the minority population, but also the total number of persons affected by the proposed sewage plant.
 1. Site 14 impacts 297 people within the 1.0 mile radius while Site 22 impacts only 30
 2. Site 14 has the largest raw number of minority residents within the 0.5 mile (84) and second largest number of minority residents' within the 1.0 mile radius (157).
Compare Site 14 minority population within 0.5 mile radius to Sites 21 and 22 which is only 5 minority residents. Compare Site 14 minority population within 1.0 mile radius to Sites 21 and 22 which combined is only 25 minority residents
- From EPA website: "Fair treatment [with respect to EJ] means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies." This aspect of EJ is not considered in the WWP submittal
- EJ data is sufficient to exclude certain site(s) from consideration
- EJ demographics related to economic, societal and cultural conditions needs to be considered

Public Participation Plan

PEQ Appendix – Recommended Approach

- Citizens have had the opportunity to speak, but have not been heard. Public meetings have been hosted by DENR, not by the WWP. How will legitimate concerns be addressed since the Partners are in no way beholden to the affected community? What positive actions will be taken? How will the Partners be held accountable for failure to meet their obligations?

PEQ Appendix - Recommended Work Plan

As stated in previous correspondence, New Hill community disagrees with the method WWP is using to gather public input - door-to-door surveys.

- Prior to the surveys, the NHCA requested copies of the WWP's survey questions. These requests were denied
- The methodology used by the WWP in their surveys isolates the affected individuals, and prevents the sharing of information amongst the community
- This method will not produce verifiable written results of data collected
- How will we know the number of people surveyed, and whether this constitutes a majority of the residents?
- Based on the history of WWP efforts and the well-documented attitude toward the community, this process used presents opportunities for bullying, intimidation, and deception
- Elected officials of NHCA were not allowed to accompany the WWP's consultants during the door-to-door surveys. Why must public input be collected privately?
- Stating that future public surveys beyond door-to door "may, or may not, be necessary" is not acceptable. If follow-up public feedback is left optional, it will not happen
- Was preplanning done prior to the survey to determine how to interpret the data before it was collected and who will interpret the data?

WRF Site Selection Process

WWP has claimed that there are only a few residents complaining and they are not adjacent to Site 14. We strongly disagree:

1. Over one hundred residents participated in the DENR Public Hearing in June 2006. Many of them live adjacent to Site 14
 2. Four residents adjacent to Site 14 were claimants in a lawsuit filed in Wake County Superior Court during May 2006
 3. The New Hill community elected representatives to speak and act on their behalf – the officers of New Hill Community Association (NHCA). The NHCA conducts monthly meetings to listen and understand residents' concerns and issues related to this planned sewage plant, and pass these concerns along to the appropriate agencies
- “various public participation forums” are cited. However, the WWP to-date have not initiated any public forums where any meaningful comments could be heard by the Partners

Table 1

Data clearly shows that Site 14 has 82% minority population within 0.5 mile radius and 53% minority population within 1.0 mile radius of its location while Progress Energy Sites (22, 25, and 26) are less than 25% minority, either within the 0.5 mile radius or 1.0 mile radius.

Data also shows Site 14 far exceeds EJ data for both Wake County and Project Service Area.

This data is sufficient to exclude Site 14 from consideration.

Table 2

Considering EJ data, Table 2 shows Site 14 moves from being ranked number 6 to number 8. Sites on Progress Energy property (22 and 25) rank number 1 and 2 respectively.

- Land area ratios for Site 20, 21, 25, and 26 continue to be inflated. These sites could be any size. As shown, the boundary lines drawn by WWP defined artificially small areas in order to make the sites less desirable. For example: Sites 21 and 22 could be combined to create a larger adequate site. Note: These combined sites would be much more favorable from an EJ standpoint.

Table 3

While Site 14 appears to have the lowest 20-year present worth cost, the difference between Site 14 and other sites is well within an acceptable margin of error under normal business practices and engineering cost estimates.

- Comparing impact on Cost in Table 2 against Present Worth Cost in Table 3 the data in these tables is inconsistent
 1. Site 25 is ranked #1 in Table 2 but #5 in Table 3
 2. Site 14 is ranked #8 in Table 2 but #1 in Table 3
 3. Site 22 is ranked #4 in Table 2 but #16 in Table 3
- The capital costs do not include the cost for highway and railroad crossings which will be significantly higher for Sites north of US 1 than Sites south of US 1
- Table 3 does not take into consideration reduce cost of property for Progress Energy sites 21, 22, 25, and 26 because less land would be required for the facility. Progress Energy land already has natural buffer land surrounding it
- Table 3 does not include the reduced cost of effluent pipeline from Holly Springs for sites south of US 1 (21, 22, 25, and 26)