

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District  
Regulatory Division  
Attn: File Number 2005-20159  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, NC 28403



Email address: [Henry.M.Wicker.Jr@usace.army.mil](mailto:Henry.M.Wicker.Jr@usace.army.mil)

Dear Mr. Wicker,

I am writing in reference to the Western Wake Regional Waste Water Treatment Facility. The plans to locate this facility on Site 14 will cause the loss of valuable forest land.

For example:

**Executive Summary: Lines 302 - 308**

*"Forest resources on the WRF site - Approximately 50 acres of forest land will be permanently altered to a utility use on the proposed Project WRF site (Site 14). Approximately 50 acres will be altered on WRF Site 19, 40 acres on WRF Site 21/23, and 25 acres on WRF Site 30. These values were based on available GIS data; field observations indicated that large sections of WRF Sites 19 and 21/23 were recently logged so the impacts to forest resources were likely overestimated for these two alternative WRF sites".*

**Section 2 - Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives:  
Lines 795 - 799**

*"Forest resources on the WRF site - Approximately 50 acres of forest land will be permanently altered to a utility use on the proposed Project WRF site (Site 14). Approximately 50 acres will be altered on Project Alternate A WRF site (Site 19), 40 acres on Project Alternate B WRF site (Site 21/23), and 25 acres on Project Alternate C WRF site (Site 30)."*

**Section 3 - Existing Conditions: Lines 1210 - 1212**

*A qualitative evaluation reveals that WRF Site 21/23 is primarily cleared having only a few plots of 5 to 10 year old pine trees while WRF Sites 14, 19 and 30 are slightly more forested.*

**Section 5 - Cumulative and Other Impacts: Lines 584 - 586**

*5.2.3 Forest Resources: Approximately 50 acres of forest land will be permanently altered to a utility use on the proposed Project WRF site (Site 14) based on GIS analysis.*

*Approximately 50 acres will be altered on WRF Site 19, 40 acres on WRF Site 21/23, and 25 acres on WRF Site 30.*

**Section 5 - Cumulative and Other Impacts: Lines 584 - 586**

*Sites 19 and 23/23 were recently logged so these estimated impacts may be high. There is also evidence that the northwest corner of Site 30 was recently logged. The Partners are preserving a perimeter buffer (approximately 200 feet) on all WRF sites, and will consider additional conservation easements on the site once plans are finalized.*

The above data, taken directly from the Final EIS, shows that using Site 14 for the sewage plant will cause more forest land to be permanently altered than if Site 21/23 is utilized.

Also shown is that Sites 19 and 21/23 were recently logged, therefore, the estimated number of acres to be permanently altered is greatly overstated.

With the rapid loss of forestry land in North Carolina, why do the Western Wake Partners want to contribute to this problem by eliminating 50 acres of forest land on Site 14 when Site 21/23 is just as suitable and has recently been logged?

Added benefits of using Site 21/23 are that it impacts far fewer people; does not affect the New Hill historic district; or the area churches.

As a resident of New Hill, I would strongly urge you to consider the alternative sites to protect the valuable forest land and environment of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss this matter.

Respectfully,

Lt. John Preston Ruth USMCR (Retired)  
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