

Masthead



[Opinion](#)

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Your letters: Nov. 24

With Veridea, it's sewage, not safety

The Nov. 10 article "Veridea poses safety challenges" notes that the projected development will require an additional \$2 million for police protection over ten years and \$1.1 million for new fire equipment.

The development will add \$5.5 to 6 billion to the Apex tax base.

That's more than enough to cover the security needs.

What is not mentioned is that a huge increase in sewage capacity is needed.

Apex doesn't have the capacity and wants to pump all that sewage, along with other sewage from the Apex and Cary, to the center of New Hill.

The citizens of New Hill had no say in the process.

Cary condemned the land years before the environmental impact statement was drafted.

Contrary to comments by elected officials, in approving the statement the Army Corps of Engineers did not indicate this was the best site.

What they did indicate was that the selected site could be permitted.

Several vacant sites, initially ranked as better locations for the plant and on land previously taken from landowners for a public utility, were not considered in the environmental impact statement.

The towns state that it would cost more to move the site a mile down the road to Progress Energy land.

The additional cost is minimal when considered in light of the total cost of the project and the huge increase in tax revenues the project will generate.

Given the tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars the towns will make every year from increased property taxes generated by development only made possible by the increased sewage capacity, you would think Cary and Apex would treat their neighbors with a little more consideration.

Instead, they tried to keep the location of the plant a secret from the citizens of New Hill for as long as possible.

Their attitude toward their neighbors was exemplified by a town employee commenting that New Hill isn't a town, it's a ZIP code.

New Hill may have lost its incorporated status during the depression, but it is much more than a ZIP code.

The proposed site is comparable to placing the plant across the street from the Apex Baptist Church, next to Apex's historic downtown district or adjacent to the old Cary Elementary School on Dry Avenue.

Add the fact that two all white town councils put it in an African-American neighborhood, and the decision seems so wrong that it is incredible the site hasn't been moved already.

Sir Edmund Burke said "All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing."

Hopefully the citizens of Apex and Cary won't do nothing but will forcefully proclaim their objections to what their elected officials are forcing on New Hill.

David Bristol,

New Hill

The author is vice president of the New Hill Community Association.