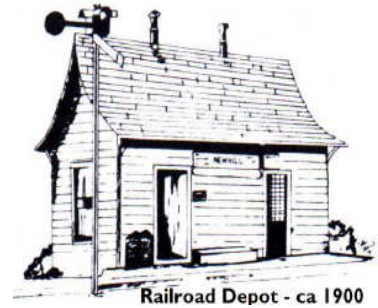


Date February 18, 2010

Wake County Commissioners
P.O. Box 550
Suite 1100
Raleigh, NC 27602



Dear Wake County Commissioners,

We are the officers of the New Hill Community Association and the purpose of this letter is to discuss with you the Western Wake Partners (WWP) plan to put a sewage plant in the middle of the minority community in New Hill; and to solicit your support in requesting that an alternative site be chosen.

By now you should have received hundreds of postcards from Wake County residents voicing their displeasure with the WWP's plan to locate a sewage plant in our community. More cards have been collected and are on the way.

You should have also received many letters and emails sent to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pointing out many of the errors made since this project began sometime in the early 2000s. We copied you on these letters so you would get the whole truth about what has been done, and what continues to be done to the residents of New Hill.

We remind you that we have never questioned the need for the sewage plant. We questioned some of the growth numbers for the towns, but never the need for the sewage plant.

All we have questioned is why the site in the middle of our community was chosen when the consultants hired by the WWP ranked our site 4th in one study and 5th in another. Following this study, a few people from each town met with the consultants and somehow picked the site in the middle of our community as the location for the sewage plant.

On two different occasions, we asked the WWP (Cary) for the minutes of the meeting where the decision was made to skip over the top ranked sites and choose Site I4. We have received a lot of data from Cary, but as of yet, no minutes of this meeting have been received.

One can only speculate as to why Site I4 was chosen, and why no minutes of this meeting were kept; or why the minutes are being kept from us. It is very troubling, in this day and time of making governmental business open to all citizens, that we have not received this information.

Now that you have seen our post cards; you have seen our letters to USACE; you have talked to some of us one-on-one; it should be apparent that a lot was done to keep the site selection a secret from New Hill residents. You should have also read about all the errors the Partners, consultants, and the Army Corps of Engineers have made.

Keeping in mind all the mistakes that were made; the secrecy of the site selection process; the fact that the Wake County Commissioners were not given the true picture of what was being done to the residents of New Hill, we encourage you to consider the attached resolution in support of New Hill.

The members of the New Hill community are ready and willing to meet with you to discuss the resolution; or to modify the resolution to better suit your needs. We just ask that you consider our resolution to show your support for the New Hill community. In passing the resolution, you will be asking Cary and the Western Wake Partners to select one of the other sites described in the FEIS. Incidentally, Mr. Henry Wicker has stated, as did the FEIS, that all the sites listed in the FEIS are equally suitable to host a sewage treatment plant. The FEIS also shows that the cost for using any of the alternate sites is within 4 percent of Site I4.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul Barth
President, New Hill Community Association

Dr. David Bristol
Vice-President, New Hill Community Association

John Brubaker
Treasurer

Vickie Gardner
Secretary

Bob Kelly
Member at large

Christopher Brook
Staff Attorney, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Attachment

Resolution to Remove Site 14 as the Preferred Site of the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facility (WWRWMF)

WHEREAS, the citizens of the New Hill community have formed an association to oppose the siting of the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facility (WWRWMF) in the center of their community for the treatment of waste from Apex, Cary, Holly Springs, Morrisville and RTP South; and

WHEREAS, the New Hill community was not adequately included in decision-making surrounding the siting of this sewage treatment plant. Decisions about the plant were made by parties outside of their community and without meaningful consultation with members of the community who would be directly impacted; and

WHEREAS, the population in New Hill most directly impacted by the WWRWMF siting is disproportionately African-American, low income and elderly, meaning the burdens of a sewage treatment plant will be borne by an overwhelmingly black, impoverished, and elderly community for the benefit of overwhelmingly white communities, creating a severe case of environmental racism; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site is located in the middle of the New Hill Historic District and near two historic churches, and cemeteries, factors that were not considered in the siting process according to a member of the Cary Town Council; and

WHEREAS, a final decision in regards to where millions of gallons of sewage would be discharged has not been made, nor have the environmental impacts of such a discharge been adequately considered. This failure to lay out specific plans stymies the public's ability to comment on the proposal in a fully educated fashion, and also precludes the public from fully weighing the impacts of this proposal.

WHEREAS, a decision in regards to the management of sewage sludge residue has not been made. In particular, no final decisions have been made on how sewage sludge will be treated and how it will be handled; applied to land or incineration. This failure to lay out specific plans stymies the public's ability to comment on the proposal in a fully educated fashion, and also precludes the public from fully weighing the impacts of this proposal.

WHEREAS, the US Army Corp of Engineers has identified three qualified alternate sites with characteristics that are equal to or better than Site 14. Two of the three qualified sites are located on Progress Energy property, which was previously condemned and taken from New Hill residents for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant. Progress Energy has confirmed that their property, none of which have environmental justice or human impact concerns, could be used for the siting of the WWRWMF;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned express their desire for the Western Wake Partners to remove Site 14 from consideration for the WWRWMF.