

# Town leaders, EQ officials not so different after all

It was a night we wouldn't forget - whether the high of celebrating a wolfpack victory over Florida State or the low of having to evacuate 17,000 members of the Apex community. Having dangerous chemicals near population centers is always a volatile situation. Recently, businesses in the vicinity of EQ were asked to evacuate again after a small fire broke out.

I am impressed at the resolve on Mayor Weatherly's face during the town council meeting. EQ was basically a persona non-grata with the message being, "not in my town."

And yet, chemicals which enter the sewage system whether paint thinner, solvents such as nail polish remover, human waste, etc are going to be put into our downtown historic district in an area just a stone's throw away from our two downtown churches at a facility which (unlike EQ) is going into a residential area (AFTER THE RESIDENTS had already established residency).

EQ was in Apex before the town surrounded it, but Apex

doesn't seem to understand that we don't like treating your waste (not ours) in New Hill anymore than you like having chemical fires in your town.

Another point. If you thought 2-3 days away from home was inconvenient, have you considered what life would be like if your water supply (wells, farm ponds) were fouled for months or years due to a raw sewage leak from a 300 pounds per square inch flow? Not only would you have to find long term lodging elsewhere, but your property is basically worthless - who wants a house where all the water must be boiled or brought in from external sources for months or years?

My question is: why is it ok for Apex to tell a business (which was there before the houses) to go away, but the folks in New Hill (who have houses and churches established before the treatment sewage treatment plant was even considered) that there are no alternatives for the siting of this plant?

Actually, only 1 mile southwest there are about 10,000

acres of land (not required by Progress Energy for daily operations which was condemned for public utility purposes) that would fill this need and where there are no current residences or churches backed right up to that property.

Also, the solution which would best serve each community would be to treat your own sewage, ship the effluent to a common pumping station (on Progress Energy land), then pump that effluent to the Cape Fear River discharge point. Effluent is still not potable, but if a leak does occur, we're in the 2-3 day inconvenience zone (like your EQ situation) rather than a "months or years without a place to stay" category.

So, my sympathy to your community. I think EQ should not rebuild, but doesn't it seem just as appropriate that Apex, Cary, Morrisville, and Holly Springs should not be placing dangerous chemicals in our front yard?

**Berry Credle**

Apex (on border with New Hill postal district)