

# Why not build sewage plant in historic Apex?

I am writing in response to last week's article, "Sewage plant fall off schedule."

I take exception to Mr. Donnelly's remarks. Mr. Donnelly states that Apex and/or the Western Wake Partners (WWP) have gone "above and beyond." I cannot imagine what he is referring to with that statement.

The WWP have steadfastly avoided including the citizens of New Hill in their planning. The only public meeting conducted to seek input from New Hill residents was held at the request of the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR), since the WWP refused our requests to be heard.

The WWP have repeatedly refused to consider our concerns. They have failed to listen when we have told them over and over that moving the plant a few miles down the road would appease us. For Mr. Donnelly to dismiss our concerns as "NIMBY" syndrome is both insulting and untrue.

Furthermore, if the WWP had taken our concerns seriously in June of 2005 when New Hill residents first approached them, the delays to the project might have been avoided. If the Cary Town Council had responded to the legitimate issues brought up at that time, the site selection problems could have been fixed and this project might be well on its way.

Instead, the WWP are heavily invested in a site that is clearly the wrong location. As things now stand, NCDENR has yet to approve their draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the project cannot move forward until that happens.

If the EIS is approved, the law mandates at least one public hearing, and DENR officials have indicated that the controversial nature of this project may require even more public input. It is likely that additional delays will result.

The WWP's proposed mitigation plans do nothing for the New Hill community. The plan

amounts to little more than deferment of fees for a select few residents a "benefit" that comes with liens on their properties!

I wonder if residents and businesses in and near downtown Apex would feel that the effects of a sewage plant near their homes and business would be mitigated by offering water and sewer hook up only to those adjacent to the facility?

Would that change the effect of having a sewage treatment plant in the center of historic Apex? New Hill residents think not.

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