

## **New Hill Waste Treatment Plant Questions for June 14, 2005 Public Meeting**

**Location:** Fire Station in New Hill (Apex Fire Station #2 )

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**Subject:** New Hill Waste Treatment Plant Proposal Town Questions

### **Resident Questions:**

#### **Historic District**

1. Did you know that the New Hill Historic District was entered into the National Historic Register of Historic Places on April 25, 2001? This Historic District is adjacent to the proposed waste treatment site! According to Renee Gledhill-Earley (Environment Review Coordinator for NC State Historic Preservation Office) in January 2005 her office requested additional information (map) to review this waste treatment plant project. To-date, there has been no response by the Western Wake Partnership!
2. North Carolina law (G.S. 121-12a) provides for consideration of National Register properties in undertakings funded or licensed by the state. Where a state undertaking is in conflict with the preservation of a National Register property, the North Carolina Historical Commission is given the opportunity to review the case and make recommendations to the state agency responsible for the undertaking. The commission's recommendations to the state agency are advisory.

Reference: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/whatis.htm>

3. If Federal funding is being requested and used for this project, will all Federal laws related to Historic Sites be evaluated for applicability?

#### **New Hill Impact – Social, Cultural and Economic Factors**

1. The facility must be located on a site that protects New Hill resident's quality of life. Why would any site be selected that is next to our Historic District and the Center of our Community or near homes, churches, parks, playgrounds, and other areas important to the residents of the New Hill Community?
2. At the May 31 meeting, the Wake County Manager said that residents could tie to the sewer system. That is not true. The system is owned by the municipalities of Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, and Morrisville. The only way a resident can tie to the system is to be annexed into one of those towns. As we are 5 miles from anyone's current corporate limits, that will not happen for another 20-30 years, if ever. What will the real benefits be to New Hill residents?
3. Will there be attractive plantings or other aesthetically pleasing barriers so that the operation of the plant would not be seen from public roads or local residents?
4. What are the long range expansion plans for the site? Will it be limited to waste water treatment?
5. Wake County planned and developed the New Hill Fire Station (Apex Fire Station #2) a few years ago. At that time, residents volunteered to be involved in the preservation of the trees remaining on the site. Despite over a dozen calls, we never got the courtesy of a return phone call from the County staff. Later, the last stand of trees -- over 2000 square feet was cut down. Currently, the drainage ditch is clogged with silt. If Wake County can't manage its trees responsibly, how can they manage waste water treatment in a responsible manner?

6. Has the waste water treatment site been decided? Which sites are involved – both plant and pump stations?

### **Environmental Impact**

1. The NC Dept of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) were initially consulted to discuss the regulator review and approval process. NCDENR indicated their desire for cooperative planning effort by participating local governments. Reference Technical Memorandum 5.0. Has there been any further involvement by NCDENR and what is the status of their review?
2. Will houses close to the facility experience any odor problems? If so, what steps would be taken to ensure odor is controlled? Are there any digesters? If so, what will be done with the methane gas? Will there be a methane burner?
3. Recent news reports have brought to light sewage spills and leakages that have caused environmental damage to streams and creeks (such as the Sycamore Creek incident which spilled sewage for two months). What kind of monitoring systems will be put in place to insure such problems do not occur with this project? Who would be in charge of policing the integrity of the operation of this project? How will ground water contamination be prevented under normal operation and in the event of spills? This includes spills from the plant and leaks from pipes carrying waste to the plant.
4. Will local wells be monitored for any contamination? What will be the extent of the monitoring? Will all wells within a pre -determined distance of the plant be monitored on a regular basis? Where is the Environmental Impact study? What are the potential hazards to well water?
5. Will studies be completed of the ground water hydrology to ensure that over the lifetime of the plant the ground water that supplies wells for drinking water in the New Hill community will not be affected? How will you ensure that there are no fractures in underlying rock that could affect not only local ground water but aquifers that provide good quality drinking water for wells distant from the plant?
6. If wells are found to be contaminated, will pure water be supplied free to any affected homes? If water is supplied, how would it be supplied (e.g. jugs or by pipe) so that showers could be taken in water that is clean enough for drinking?
7. Will there be any noise associated with the operation of the plant? How will it be controlled so those nearby neighbors are not disturbed?
8. Will the treated water be clean enough to recycle for use as drinking water? If not, where will it be discharged? How will you assure that any lakes or streams will not be adversely affected by the discharge?
9. How will the sludge be treated? Will it be dried before hauling, or will it be wet -- a bigger odor problem. Worse, will there be ponds?
10. Is this system a combined system, or only sewage? Will the sludge have a high concentration of heavy metals? If the system is combined, there is a greater risk of spillage from flooding, should it occur.
11. I have heard comments such as "The effluent from the WRF is clean and drinkable." Is that the case? If not, then why not? If so, then why can't the water be discharged into Jordan Lake (where water is withdrawn from for supplying Cary/Apex water needs) after it is treated?
12. Why can't the effluent from the Utley Creek WWTP be discharged into Harris Lake?

### **Site Selection – Engineering Factors**

1. How much sludge will be transported away from the site or processed onsite and what route? How many tons, how many trucks and how frequently? Is the infrastructure adequate to handle the traffic? What roads would be used and will the roads used be improved to support this usage?
2. According to Leila Goodwin (Town of Cary) certain requirements/studies have been put on a “fast track” and being done concurrently. Why is this project on a “fast track” and what elements of the project are being pursued concurrently?
3. Someone from Cary was quoted as saying Progress Energy would have to agree to sell the land for the treatment facility. Why would Progress Energy have to agree to sell, when as individual property owners it does not matter if we agree or not. If they can take our land, why can't they take some of the land Progress Energy owns?
4. Has there been a formal contact or request to Progress Energy to locate the Waste Water Treatment facility on their property? If so, can we get a copy of the request and a copy of their response to the Town Council or Western Wake Partners? If no formal contact or request has been made to Progress Energy, can a formal request be made?
5. In the Hazen and Sawyer reports ( Phase 1 and Phase 2) the recommended options for placement of the facility focused on Option 5 – White Oak Creek at Jordan Lake and Little White Oak Creek at Harris Lake, Option 9 – Beaver Creek and White Oak Creek at Harris Lake, and Option 10D – White Oak Creek at Jordan Lake. Then in Phase 2, a revised Option 10D appeared placing the facility at New Hill. I have yet to find the analysis supporting this revision as detailed in Table ES7 “Scoring of Wastewater Management Option” or ES3 Present Worth Cost Summary or supporting information as is detailed in Phase 1 Sections 6, 7, and 8. How can a committee so quickly change direction from what was being considered in Option 10D to a revised Option 10D from only a financial statement from Holly Springs? Quoting from the Phase 2 report, Section 3.2:

*“To improve the level of service provided by Option 10D, the Project Partners modified the option to include Holly Springs as a participant in the regional wastewater management facilities. The decision to modify Option 10D was prompted by an independent analysis conducted by Holly Springs which indicated that cost advantages could be realized for the Town by continuing to treat wastewater at the Utley Creek WWTP and discharge treated effluent to the outfall serving the Western Wake Regional WRF.”*

6. Table 3.1 in the Phase 2 documentation does not include any information on Option 10D revised. How can the Project Partners make an informed decision to implement Option 10D revised without comparative information?
7. The paragraph preceding Table 8.1-2 on page 5 of the “Final Site Selection” report states that:

*“...Site C has less cost for treated effluent conveyance. This is a result of a significantly reduced length for the treated effluent pipeline between the WRF and the discharge point on the Cape Fear River. The effluent pipelines are the largest (and most expensive) pipelines because they convey the flow from all of the participating municipalities.”*

This being the case, why have you not considered building the WRF near White Oak Creek at Harris Lake?

8. Given that the cost of pipe lines is a consideration, the outflow from WRF to Cape Fear River is shown to be two parallel pipelines running an approximate distance of 13.7 miles. Building the WRF at White Oak Creek at Harris Lake the distance to the Cape Fear River is only 10.5 miles. Also, the cost to install 2 parallel pipelines vs. one pipeline will significantly reduce the cost to build the WRF in the vicinity of White Oak Creek at Harris Lake. Why has this site not been considered?
9. Building the WRF at a site near White Oak Creek at Harris Lake would not impact any residents. Progress Energy has over 14,300 acres of available land for a project such as this. (Total Harris Site = 25,000 acres Nuclear Plant = 10,700 acres, leaving 14,300 acres of available land). Why has this not been considered?

10. Building the WRF at a site near White Oak Creek at Harris Lake would possibly eliminate the need for a long effluent pipeline to the Cape Fear River by discharging the effluent into Harris Lake. Why has this not been considered?

### **Decision Making and Communications**

1. Have all of the Western Wake Partners approved a resolution on condemnation of the New Hill site and have all Partners approved the project at this time? What has to happen from the Western Wake Partners to make the project happen?
2. What is the organizational structure for this project? Who is in charge of the project? What is the chain of command? Who has final authority for decisions, both financial and technical? Is there one office to call for answers to questions?
3. Representation on the Technical Management Team for this project consisted of three people from Wake County, three from Apex, seven from Cary, four from Fuquay, three from Holly Springs, and two from Morrisville, but NO ONE FROM NEW HILL. Could you explain why a project of this magnitude and disruption to our quality of life did not include representation from New Hill? Why so much secrecy about this project? Why was adjacent land owners not briefed on projected plans?
4. For Wake County overall, who is in charge of insuring that the best use is made of the available lands? Given the growth in Wake County, what assurances are there that the best possible site is chosen for a facility such as this, given its long term implications with respect to future tax revenues (or lack thereof), future development, quality of life, etc. In other words, is it better to place a facility such as this in the middle of a community, with a rich history and accelerating growth or should a site that is not open to the public, such as the excess lands that are part of the Progress Energy Sharon Harris site, be a better fit for such a facility? What is the escalation path for resolving such issues?
5. Where can we find out about when and where the meetings being held by the "Project Partners" takes place? Are these meetings open to the public? What is the protocol for raising questions and issues at such meetings?

### **Disaster Planning**

1. What happens if the pumps fail? How many back-up pumps are planned?
2. What is your staffing plan during a nuclear emergency when citizens are asked to evacuate inside the 5 mile limit?

