

To the NCUC Clerk:

I am sending this statement today along with supporting images (attached) and videos (shared with statements@ncuc.net) as an addendum to my comments at the Public Witness Hearing on January 14, 2020 at the Pittsboro Courthouse ([Docket No. W-1320 Sub 0](#) and [Docket No. W-1320 Sub 2](#)).

My main concerns are the following.

1. There was a complete lack of transparency in the decision to change the route of the proposed Fearington Village sewer lines (which will connect the FV and Briar Chapel waste water systems): from the edge of FV to the middle of the “historic” section (Creekwood, from Trundle Ridge down to the current FV wastewater treatment plant). I addressed this in my remarks on Tuesday. Although there had been a general FHA meeting in 2017 about the proposed FV/BC wastewater system merger, the easement waiver necessary to proceed with this new route was rushed through the FHA Board and the Chatham County Commissioners without any open discussion with FV residents, PARTICULARLY those who live along Creekwood and will be most affected by this decision.

2. At the FHA/Envirolink meeting in late 2019, no one (Envirolink, FHA Board President at the time, head of FHA Green Scene) was actually able to show me the new route of the FV sewer lines on a map. It was not until a Briar Chapel resident posted a link (after the Public Witness Hearing on 1/14/20) that I actually saw the proposed route that had been submitted with the rushed easement waiver request made in July 2019. I am attaching those documents; the proposed route appears on page 4 of the PDF: Exhibit 2.

3. My final concern is the major storm water and erosion issues in the area where the proposed sewer lines may run: along/through the Beechmast Pond emergency spillway, crossing a creek and then ending in the pump station that would replace the current outdated FV waste water treatment plant. (On page 4—Exhibit 2—of the attached PDF: the final two “links” in the route, near the green pond.)

The proposed area is a riparian buffer, and the emergency spillway for the Beechmast Pond, a sedimentation/erosion control pond built in the 1970s. (Fitch Creations got an exemption from the 2008 Chatham County Storm Water Management Ordinance.)

My concern is that neither Envirolink nor the FHA/Fitch Creations –NOW THAT THIS NEW ROUTE FOR THE SEWER LINES IS BEING PROPOSED—is fully considering the environmental issues in that area. At the November 2019 meeting, Mr. Bowman (Envirolink) told me that he was sick of hearing about the pond and that it was not his problem. (I had never spoken to him about the pond before.) I have spent a lot of time and effort trying to get the FHA Board over the years to address the storm water and erosion issues in the spillway area, with limited success.

I have lived next to the Beechmast Pond for twenty years. For the first approximately fifteen years, I could count on my hand how many times the pond overflowed onto the emergency spillway. It was a rarity. In the last few years, as the

pond continues to fill in (the construction in the vicinity may be contributing to the drastic increase in sediment deposition), and extreme amounts of precipitation fall in a short period (even just a thunderstorm), the storm water stress and resulting erosion in that area has increased tremendously. I should note that the FHA has dredged the inlet to the pond several times in the last few years, and cleared out the pond's outlet "pipe" in 2018, but it has categorically ignored the condition of the spillway area for years. And now they are proposing to run sewer lines through it and/or along the edge of it.

I am attaching and sharing a number of images and videos from that area. Some are from 2016, during a strong thunderstorm, which show the amount of water that can flow in that area, as well as the resulting erosion. The images and videos from 2018 show again the amount of water that can flow during a storm (who knows what the future holds, but the pond is getting shallower and shallower). I should point out that the water in 2018 flowed way over the emergency spillway and all through my yard, which is exactly the area through which the proposed sewer lines would pass. I am also attaching an article about the challenges of utility stream crossings, since the sewer lines will be crossing a creek that flows fast and furiously during storms, since it originates at the outlet of Beechmast Pond.

As I said at the hearing, I understand that something has to be done about the outdated FV wastewater treatment plant; I do not want my community to contribute to water quality problems in the Jordan Lake Watershed. I was willing to keep an open mind to all solutions, until I realized the extent of the environmental problems in Briar Chapel stemming from their wastewater treatment facility, particularly the leaks in the sewer pipe joints and malfunctioning pump stations. The fact that my own homeowners' association has been LESS THAN TRANSPARENT does not help. I am requesting THOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING STUDIES should this move ahead, and OPEN COMMUNICATION with residents who will be most affected.

Thank you very much. Every single government employee whom I have spoken with over the years about specific environmental and infrastructure issues (from the county up) has treated me with respect and taken my questions and observations seriously.

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PS I will attach images and documents to the email I am sending to statements@ncuc.net. I am placing the videos on my Google Drive and sharing them with you.