

Mr. George Vital, Area Director
USDA-Rural Development
253 S. Beckford Drive, Suite A
Henderson, North Carolina 27536

February 10, 2013

State Clearinghouse
N.C. Department of Administration
1301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301



Re: Creedmoor WWTP

Dear Mr. Vital:

I have spent a lot of time and study to try to make an informed decision about the proposed Creedmoor WWTP and discharge to Tar River. The city officials in Creedmoor have decided they need to build a WWTP and discharge their wastewater into another already stressed river basin. Unlike their own Neuse River basin, the Tar, though not exactly untouched or pristine, is never the less recognized for its water quality and rare and endangered species of plant and animal life.

In 2005 the Upper Tar and Wilton Slopes especially were considered a Significant Natural Heritage area. Our county officials recognized this fact and constructed a park with trails and picnic area and a canoe launch at the Highway 96 bridge. This stretch of river from 96 to the Charlie Grissom/Green Hill roads in Vance and Franklin counties is Granville County's "hidden jewel".

To anyone fortunate enough to navigate this section with it's beautiful scenery and steep banks covered with thickets of mountain laurel and hardwood forests and rock outcroppings, being able to float along with beavers and muskrats swimming in the current alongside the boat close enough to touch with the paddle, is an experience that cannot be duplicated by any man-made amusement park type ride elsewhere.

The trip is not a leisurely float -down, but a challenging trip that sometimes requires highly technical maneuvers to get through the rocky rapids depending on the water levels. Unlike the popular rafting trips in the western part of our state which are controlled by dam released waters during certain hours of the day, the Tar is runnable on it's own terms, usually determined by a rain event. During low flow periods the river is more like a rocky, grassy trough.

Despite the difference in flows, the river is home to a wide range of fish and fowl and small and big game animals and the aforementioned endangered species. The low flow at times is probably what saves the river from becoming so popular for recreation that it leads to overuse and destroying the natural habitat for animal and plant life.

Marshall Floyd

The river, as resilient as it is, has suffered impairment in the past because of development, improper logging practices, even agricultural practices, not to mention the town of Oxford's wastewater discharge and sewage spills. Most of these issues have been addressed by responsible builders and developers, farmers, loggers and D.O.T. but are being threatened again by loosening of environmental regulations by legislators and special interest groups claiming to be creating jobs or blaming the downturn of the economy, while cutting everyone else's budget and sparing or increasing their own salaries.

Getting back to Creedmoor, they claim that their reason for crossing the river basins and building a new treatment plant are for economic reasons and also their desire to be friendly to the environment. They blame the Falls Lake Rules and the SGWASA for their decision to dump on someone else's environment outside their own river basin. Granville County Commissioners do not support the proposal to build the WWTP. SGWASA has disputed Creedmoor's claim that SGWASA is unable to guarantee capacity to treat Creedmoor's waste water. The city of Raleigh claims the inter-basin transfer of Creedmoor's wastewater will degrade their water supply and US and NC Fish and Wildlife Service agree that the WWTP will impair the habitat for animal and plant life in the Tar River.

Creedmoor's Mayor expressed at the County Commissioner's meeting on Feb 4th 2013 that he intends to seek funding for the project regardless of the opposition. The real issue appears to be a power struggle between the town of Creedmoor and the SGWASA. It seems Creedmoor has taken a stand and has not fully considered the consequences for their inability to co-operate with full voting members of SGWASA who would be their most obvious ally in helping them handle their situation. After hearing both sides I am convinced that SGWASA is the party trying to bargain in good faith and not Creedmoor, as they claim to be.

As for the Tar Pamlico Basin Association allowing Creedmoor to become a member and using the National Spinning Company allotment for discharge into the Tar, think about it. If you measure your water quality at the estuary, would not you want the discharge to be as far upriver as you possibly could? Regardless of how that decision was made, the discharge points they chose (Hwy 15 or Cannady's Mill) could not have been a worse choice.

You may wonder why I have an interest in this matter. I have several concerns related to this matter. One of my daughters lives in Creedmoor where the local government claims they are unable to meet their waste water needs without a new treatment plant. Another daughter resides in the city of Raleigh, whose officials say Creedmoor is threatening their water supply if they discharge to another river basin. My other daughter lives in Greenville, NC and has to contend with the fish kills and algae problems caused in large part by the pollutants we send downriver to them. My wife and I live on Little Fishing Creek in Granville County less than a half mile from the town of Oxford's discharge point, and we are tired of the town telling us how safe and clean the effluent is. If it is as good, usable and safe as they say it is, I doubt a single drop would flow by us. They would keep it and use it themselves.

EEP made some progress in restoring the creek until their funding was cut so drastically that they had to abandon the project. I know a lot more about wastewater now than I ever wanted to know and I am

hoping that the powers that make decisions for clean water will think twice before they decide to impair the cleanest water in the area with another unnecessary WW discharge.

Respectfully,

Marshall B. Floyd Jr.