



P.O. Box 358
Jacksonville, NC 28540
910-382-1370
www.wonriverkeeper.org

Dear Ms. Ikner,

I am writing to express my concern over a proposed asphalt plant on the banks of Little Northeast Creek. Asphalt plants can contaminate ground and surface water through spills and leaks of chemicals. This contaminated water could then migrate to the creek and the New River.

The Zoning Adjustment Board is scheduled to conduct a hearing on February 23, 2010. The applicant has not yet provided the community with any information about the size of the plant, the need for another asphalt plant in Onslow County, potential emissions of toxic air pollution, operating hours, noise impacts or his plans to keep pollution from this plant from entering groundwater, Little Northeast Creek and the New River.



The proposed facility is very close to the banks of Little Northeast Creek, shown on the right side of the photograph. It is also extremely close to the 100-year floodplain and designated wetlands. Additionally, the natural wetlands vegetation has been removed which allows contaminants to flow into Little Northeast Creek unchecked.



The site plan produced by the applicant shows no stormwater controls on the site. This facility proposes to store uncovered piles of crushed aggregate in the blue area. As rain water percolates through these uncovered piles, it will pick up substantial amounts of dirt and stone dust which will wash directly into Little Northeast Creek. Silt suffocates the plants and wildlife in our streams, preventing natural vegetation from growing, and damaging fish gills and smothering their eggs. This polluted runoff may also carry contaminants from the plant directly into Little Northeast Creek and the New River.

The co-location between the gravel mine and the asphalt plant adds to the potential for ground water contamination.(:) *“Batch plants are often located in conjunction with gravel mining operations. This increases the potential for pollutants to affect underlying ground water. Trucks, loaders and other equipment are common on site. Spills and leaks from associated equipment in the manufacturing and delivery process pose a significant potential to contaminate waters of the state.”*

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/mineral_land/docs/gravel-mines-and-asphalt-plants-7.pdf

The testimony of Dr. Ken Rudo, State Environmental Toxicologist, at a similar hearing in Hillsborough, NC, reinforces these concerns. From the hearing minutes of March 12, 2003:

“He noted that most impacts seen from asphalt plants are residents with 1, 1 ½ to 2 miles of the site and the impacts are from particulates and surface water contamination.”

“He said that it is common to see surface water and soil contamination when plants are located near a stream or within a 100-year floodplain”

The Zoning Adjustment Board is required to take public health and safety into account when approving a Special Use.

to protect the health and welfare of nearby residents and request that a risk assessment be performed by Dr. Kenneth Rudo, North Carolina's State Environmental Toxicologist, to properly understand the potential risks of this proposal. I further request that the hearing scheduled for February 23, 2010 be delayed until the risk assessment can be completed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and for all you do for Onslow County and the City of Jacksonville. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 910-382-1370 or tess@wonriverkeeper.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tess Sanders". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Tess Sanders

White Oak-New Riverkeeper