

MEMORANDUM

To: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

From: Lance Norris, Public Works Director

Date: September 2, 2014

Subject: Update on Coal Ash Assessment at the Chapel Hill Police Station

Background:

As part of the Town's asset management initiative, we have been conducting a property assessment of the Police Station, which is one of several Town owned properties that the Council is considering for potential sale. On October 18, 2013, the Town released information from an environmental assessment of the property done by Falcon Engineering indicating the presence of coal ash in fill deposited on the site in the 1960's and 70's. That information was posted on the Town's coal ash web page <http://bit.ly/1togSFS> and concurrently provided to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR) for their review. In response to this assessment NC DENR directed the Town to take some additional soil and groundwater samples to further characterize conditions on the property. These samples were taken and analyzed, and on April 24, 2014 Falcon Engineering provided a full report of these findings to NC DENR to determine what further actions may be needed by the Town. The full report was also posted on the Town's coal ash web page. Subsequent to this report NC DENR requested that the Town retest groundwater samples, conduct a survey of wells on nearby properties and submit a completed questionnaire for use by NC DENR in prioritizing possible future remediation measures. Falcon Engineering has completed the questionnaire and the associated surveying and groundwater retesting and is submitting this information to NC DENR. This information is also being posted on the Town's coal ash web page.

Summary of Findings:

As directed by NC DENR, Falcon Engineering retested groundwater samples using a low flow pump process to reduce sample turbidity and provide a more accurate measurement of actual groundwater metals concentrations. This testing found metals concentrations in all samples to be below NC 2L Groundwater Standards. These results indicate that groundwater on the site has not been contaminated.

The survey of nearby properties found one existing well up-gradient approximately 460 feet from the site and no wells within the survey's 500 foot radius down-gradient. The completed NC DENR Site Assessment questionnaire summarizes Falcon Engineering findings from all phases of testing to date and indicates that there has been no evidence found of contamination leaving the site or impacting Bolin Creek.

Next Steps:

After NC DENR has had an opportunity to review the new information we anticipate that they will provide the Town with recommendations for next steps. These further actions could include additional testing, supplemental mitigation measures, and/or the placement of future use restrictions on the property. We will follow the direction of NC DENR and will provide updated information as it becomes available. We anticipate that NC DENR will also specifically identify a remediation priority status for the site and suggest options for remediation strategies should further on-site measures be recommended.