

## John Richardson

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**From:** Maurice Jones  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** Pam Hemminger; Jess Anderson; Donna Bell; Allen Buansi; Hongbin Gu; Nancy Oates; Michael Parker; Rachel Schaevitz; Karen Stegman; Town Council  
**Cc:** Flo Miller; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ross Tompkins; Laura Selmer; Vencelin Harris; John Richardson  
**Subject:** 828 Project Update

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Mayor and Council,

I am forwarding a message from Laura Selmer providing an update on our efforts related to the property at 828 MLK Blvd. and the work around the Bolin Creek Trail. Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the Best,  
Maurice

Maurice,

On behalf of the 828 Project Team, I am writing to share an update about the Coal Ash Remediation project. We are planning to take the stockpile of soil (about 6.5 truckloads) from our earlier trail construction activities to a permitted Subtitle D Republic landfill in Rougemont, NC. This material was previously removed from the south side of the creek (opposite the Police Station property) to apply rip-rap for bank stabilization in that area.

After extensive research, Rougemont was selected because it is the closest facility, reducing transportation costs and vehicle emissions. The soil stockpile is non-hazardous and does not contain coal ash. We are electing to dispose of the material in a permitted landfill because the soil is not needed for fill. No coal ash will be taken to the Rougemont facility.

Our team is still researching options for landfill sites for coal ash. Construction teams have been trained to properly identify and handle coal ash, should they encounter it.

If you are interested, there are additional details below regarding the stockpile and the ongoing efforts to remediate the lower portion of the property in concert with the completion of the Bolin Creek trail.

### *Stockpile*

Prior to the arrival of hurricane Dorian, staff relocated the stockpile of soil from the Bolin Creek trail to Public Works. In addition to reinforcing the silt fencing near the trail and the creek, the stockpile was removed to avoid possible complications from flooding. Thankfully, we did not experience any significant flooding from Dorian.

Before the soil was removed, our environmental engineer (Hart & Hickman) tested it using a toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP). They found that while the soil does have slightly elevated levels of certain metals, the results are consistent with those found in the general area of the property (background samples). Also, according to the results of the test, the soil is not coal ash and is classified as a non-hazardous material.

We asked our environmental engineer for options on how to dispose of these materials in a responsible way. The options presented were to explore the use of the material as beneficial fill (should the Town have a use) or to dispose of the soil at a permitted facility (landfill) as a non-hazardous waste. As mentioned above, we plan to use a DEQ-permitted facility in Rougemont.

#### *Trail Construction and Coal Ash Remediation*

Over the next 3-4 months, the trail construction contractors will be working to complete the final segment of the Bolin Creek. This segment extends from beneath the MLK Jr Blvd bridge to the existing trail located below the Police Station. The work begins in the creek and will then move to the area south of the existing trail.

In advance of these activities, our environmental engineer has cordoned off the areas of coal ash contamination near the trail using orange construction fencing. Representatives from the firm will also be on site to help guide the process of testing and soil removal as it is warranted during trail construction. For this reason, the Town will ask trail users not to enter the area while these activities are taking place.

Consistent with what staff presented earlier this year to Council, we plan to take any contaminated soils to a DEQ permitted landfill. Our criteria for selecting the appropriate landfill includes:

- A liner
- A leachate collection and treatment system
- No active investigations with the Department of Environmental Quality concerning the status of the landfill operation
- No active cases/investigations/concerns regarding environmental justice

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