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DRAFT MEMORANDUM

To: John Richardson, Community Resilience Officer, Town of Chapel Hill
From: David Duncklee, President / Senior Hydrogeologist
CC: Laura Selmer, Program Coordinator, Town of Chapel Hill
Vencelin Harris, Department of Public Safety, Town of Chapel Hill
Date: October 17, 2019
Re: Preliminary Environmental Justice, Regulatory, and Community Sensitivity Evaluation for Potential Use of Five North Carolina Landfill Disposal Facilities

As requested by the Town of Chapel Hill (the Town), Duncklee & Dunham, P.C. (Duncklee & Dunham) has completed a preliminary environmental justice, community sensitivity, and regulatory evaluation for five landfills. The landfills are being considered for disposal of potential future wastes from the environmental remediation of the Town's property at 828 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. We conducted this evaluation using the Environmental Justice (EJ) Tool and Community Mapping System, developed and provided online by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), which uses data from the United States Census Bureau. We also reviewed current public records found on NCDEQ's Laserfiche file search system, and online local media outlet data. The landfills specified for consideration by the Town were as follows:

Landfill	Address	County	Permit #
Upper Piedmont Environmental Landfill	9650 Oxford Road, Rougemont, NC	Person	7304-MSWLF-1997
Uwharrie Environmental Regulatory Landfill	500 Landfill Road Mount Gilead, NC	Montgomery	6204-MSWLF-1995
Great Oak Landfill	1254 County Land Road, Randleman, NC	Randolph	7602-INDUS-1983
Sampson County Disposal, LLC	7434 Roseboro Highway, Roseboro, NC	Sampson	8202-MSWLF-2000
BFI Charlotte Motor Speedway V Subtitle D Landfill	5105 Morehead Road, Concord, NC	Cabarrus	1304-MSWLF-1992

Using the NCDEQ EJ Tool and Community Mapping System, Duncklee & Dunham reviewed demographic data on population, race, income, gender, and health in the vicinity of each landfill. We compared the census data for the population around the landfill to each respective county as a whole. We compared the health data for the counties in which the landfills are located against the next nearest county to each landfill. If the landfill is located in the approximate center of the county, we compared the data against the average health data for bordering counties around the respective county in which the landfill is located. This review did not find environmental justice concerns at or around the landfill locations.

Next, we performed a review of available NCDEQ Laserfiche records to evaluate the general regulatory status of each landfill and to review available data on community involvement and/or concerns. Based on this review, NCDEQ Solid Waste Section inspectors reported no significant regulatory violations during recent site inspections at the landfills. The data in these records indicates the landfills are in overall compliance with NCDEQ regulatory requirements, including groundwater monitoring, and none of the landfills is undergoing groundwater remediation.

Laserfiche records for the Upper Piedmont landfill included correspondence in 2016 between local citizens and NCDEQ. The correspondence contained complaints that included concerns ranging from the landfill itself to other disposal facilities in Person County containing coal ash. Media reports were found indicating that Person County contains a large proportion of coal ash disposal facilities compared to other counties in North Carolina. I spoke with Ms. Ellen Lorscheider of NCDEQ, author of the agency's response to the 2016 citizen inquiry, and she confirmed citizen complaints remain active in Person County.

Laserfiche records show complaint letters received by NCDEQ in regard to the Uwharrie Landfill expansion in 2007. Media reports were found regarding economic justice concerns by some in the community. A county commissioner expressed concerns about the landfill expansion. However, the town council eventually voted in favor of the expansion. This landfill is located within the boundary of Uwharrie National Forest.

Current Laserfiche records did not show negative community sensitivity for the Sampson County Landfill. A media report was found highlighting recent transportation of GenX-containing sludge from the Chemours facility in Cumberland County to the landfill. According to the 2018 Fayetteville Observer article, NCDEQ officials stated this disposal was allowed under the landfill's permit.

Laserfiche records show limited recent community sensitivity regarding the Great Oaks Landfill, which formerly operated as the Eveready industrial landfill. This could be in part due to the landfills relatively short history as a full commercial landfill. The grand opening for the landfill under the current name was in 2017. Media reports show community complaints at a public hearing held in January 2019 regarding a request by the landfill to double the allowable daily tonnage. In a meeting held in March 2019, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners passed a vote to allow the tonnage increase.



Current Laserfiche records do not show significant community sensitivity regarding the Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill. A media report was found showing a complaint of trash and liquids exiting trucks on the roadway before they arrive at the landfill. The landfill released an official response to the complaints encouraging local citizens to continue to contact the landfill if the problem persists.

Based on the higher volume of citizen complaints and negative media coverage regarding coal ash storage in Person County, and the evaluation criteria provided by the Town, Duncklee & Dunham does not recommend use of the Upper Piedmont Landfill. We do not recommend use of the Great Oaks facility because of the comparatively recent community sensitivity to the landfill expansion. The Charlotte Motor Speedway landfill is located the furthest distance from the environmental remediation project site, which would therefore generate the longest travel time and most traffic of the five facilities, as well as generating the largest carbon footprint from fuel usage, and highest transportation costs.

This evaluation therefore leaves the Sampson County and Uwharrie facilities as best matching the evaluation criteria. These recommendations are based solely on the factors listed above and may change if other evaluation criteria or information need to be considered.

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