

# New Criteria Place Top-Rated Landfill Sites in Supply, Bolivia

BY ERIC CARLSON

The committee charged with selecting a location for a new county landfill has changed its criteria for choosing a site; consequently, four previously recommended locations in the Leland area are being rejected in favor of three others in the Supply and Bolivia area.

The top-rated site to be considered is located along SR 1501 about 1.8 miles east of Antioch, bordered on the north by a tributary of the Lockwood Folly River. The second-rated site is adjacent to the first, across SR 1501 and bounded on the south by SR 1504.

Another site is just south of the existing landfill with frontage along U.S. 17 and bordered on the west by Royal Oak Swamp and on the northeast by Beaverdam Swamp. The last proposed site is located south of SR 1343 and west of SR 211 at Little Macedonia, bordered on the west by Middle River and on the south by Royal Oak Swamp.

The change may add considerably to the cost of maintaining and closing a new landfill.

At a meeting last Thursday, the Brunswick County Landfill Siting Committee met with the county engineer and a hired consultant and changed the list of priorities it had previously agreed upon for selecting a landfill site.

In earlier meetings the committee had agreed upon a list of 29 criteria for selecting a landfill site.

The criteria included engineering

considerations such as soil conditions, usable acreage, hauling distances and proximity to sewage treatment facilities; environmental concerns like the closeness to wells and depth of ground water; and social and political criteria like zoning and proximity to neighbors.

Each of the 29 considerations was given a weight ranging from 10 for very important issues to 2 for least important criteria.

One of the most important considerations identified by the committee was the availability of nearby sewage treatment facilities. Under new regulations, all landfills must be lined with plastic and all water flowing out of them must be treated.

A landfill must either run a pipe to a treatment plant or pump the effluent into trucks to be hauled away and treated. Even after closing the landfill, the water flowing out of it must be monitored and treated for 10 to 15 years.

Another consideration the committee placed at the top of its list was a location that would allow a landfill to become a regional facility.

One of the least important criteria identified by the committee was hauling distance, since the county's system of transfer stations makes the location of a landfill a relatively minor cost consideration.

Once the criteria were established and weighted, each of the 12 areas previously identified by engineering studies as possible landfill sites was rated based on the committee's blind evaluations.

Those ratings indicated that four sites in the Leland area and one near Bolivia would be most suitable for a new landfill.

But after seeing the results of its own selection process, the committee voted Thursday to change the weighting of its criteria designated "proximity to the county line," from highest priority to lowest priority, thereby favoring sites in the Bolivia and Supply areas.

County Engineer Robert Tucker said Friday the committee made its decision to head off the possibility of a Brunswick County landfill being used as a regional facility and "to reduce hauling costs."

The committee's earlier findings and its consulting engineer recommended a site north of U.S. 74/76 bordered by Seaboard Railroad tracks, Hood Creek and Alligator Branch as the top site in the county.

Tucker said the site's close proximity to an existing sewage treatment plant at the Leland Industrial Park made it an especially attractive choice.

After the committee's change in criteria Thursday night, the site fell from number one to number two. But it was not included on the list of four sites that will be shown to state regulators for evaluation.

Instead of choosing the top four sites, the committee selected numbers 1, 3, 8 and 11, based on its adjusted criteria. Under its original weighting, the four finalists were rated as numbers 3, 7, 10 and 12.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## On A Hot Day...

...a spray of cold water attracts youngsters like honey attracts flies. This fire hose spray drew a steady supply of satisfied customers behind Southport City Hall during the N.C. Fourth of July Festival. Record temperatures and scant rainfall continue to take their toll on people and plants throughout the region.

## Rosemobile Plans Visit On July 20

The mobile office of Congressman Charlie Rose, D-7th District, will return to Brunswick County Tuesday, July 20, and will be at the South Brunswick Post Office from 9 a.m. until noon.

A representative of Rose's office will be available for conferences at that time.

Persons who have a problem with a federal agency or questions about federal legislation are invited to visit the mobile office.

Additional stops in Brunswick County during the summer are tentatively set for August.

## Supply Library Open To Students

Summer vacation calls a temporary halt to classes and homework, and that means more time to read just for fun.

For Supply Elementary School students, books are as close as the school library.

Spokesman Jean Gillette said the Supply Elementary School library is open to its students every Tuesday through the summer from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students can use all library resources and check out books.

For more information contact Principal Carolyn Williams at the school, 754-7644.

## FINDINGS 'HAZY,' SAYS ENGINEER

# Canals Samples Show Bacteria

BY ERIC CARLSON

Preliminary analysis of 11 water samples recently taken from Sunset Beach canals indicates the presence of coliform bacteria at all but one of the locations tested, Brunswick County Environmental Health Supervisor Andrew Robinson said Monday.

In a report to the county board of health, Robinson said he had received results from the first in a series of water quality tests scheduled to be performed in conjunction with the N.C. Division of Environmental Management (DEM).

While he cautioned that the data collected so far are incomplete, Robinson said after the meeting that fecal coliform levels ranging from 2 to 500 colonies per 100 milliliters of water were found in the four canals and at two of three other sites tested in the first round of sampling.

Coliform bacteria exists in the digestive tracts of warm-blooded animals. Robinson said its presence in the Sunset Beach canals indicates that human waste may be seeping into the water from septic tanks.

Robinson, who accompanied DEM personnel during the sampling, said he observed "seepage from the bulkhead" on one canal, indicating that the neighboring septic tank was not operating properly.

But a DEM environmental engineer Tuesday called the preliminary findings "hazy" and warned against drawing conclusions from a single sampling of the canal waters. He said the data collected so far do not

indicate the canals are unsafe for swimming.

"There appears to be a potential for elevated levels in remote areas of canals localized around housing developments," said Jim Bushardt of the DEM's Wilmington office. "But you can't base a water quality assumption on a limited number of samples."

While the first round of sampling revealed coliform levels that exceed the maximums allowable for shell-fishing, only one sample indicated a bacteria count higher than the state allows in waters classified as safe for swimming.

Shellfish cannot be taken from waters with a coliform count higher than 14 colonies per 100 ml. "Organized swimming" is not recommended in waters showing a coliform count above 400, Bushardt said. These counts can only be officially established by taking a series of samples over a 30-day period.

The highest coliform level found in the recent Sunset Beach samples was a count of 500 recorded at the mouth of the canal between Dolphin Street and Cobia Street. The next highest levels were two counts of 110 found at the head of the canal between Sixth and Marvin streets and at 1805 East Canal Street. The other samples revealed coliform counts of 80, 30, 9, 8, 4, 4, 2 and less than 2.

The 11 water samples were taken during a 35-minute period at low tide on Friday, June 30, Robinson said. Water was collected at the mouth and the end of the four canals

between Marvin, Sailfish, Dolphin and Cobia Streets and at three points along East Canal Street.

"There haven't been enough samples taken and the regime required by the state has not been followed" to provide enough data to make a determination about the safety of Sunset Beach canal waters, Bushardt said.

"Right now, we're not aware of anybody who's been taken ill from swimming in those canals," he said.

Robinson said he hopes to take "four or five" more samples at each location at varying times of day and tide.

The county health department began the testing project in response to a June 3 request from the Sunset Beach Town Council. Council's action was in response to concerns expressed by a year-round resident whose home is on a canal lot.

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