



### Wounded Ambulance

A Shallotte Volunteer Rescue ambulance sits outside the squad building Monday morning after being involved in a wreck that injured five people, one seriously, Sunday afternoon. Witnesses told police a car made an unexpected left turn in front of the ambulance as it attempted to pass three vehicles on N.C. 179 with its siren and emergency lights operating, Shallotte Rescue Chief Mark Gore said. Squad members sustained minor bruises in the collision, but were able to treat the injured and prepare them for transport to local hospitals.

## U.S. To Absorb Extra Security Costs For Spent Fuel Shipments

North Carolina won't have to pay for the extra security it plans to provide as spent nuclear fuel rods from foreign research reactors are shipped across the southeastern corner of the state this month.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced Sept. 1 that it would fund requests from both North Carolina and South Carolina for additional security and safeguard and monitoring as the rods are moved by rail from Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal at Southport to DOE's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C. There the rods will be stored under water.

While federal standards call for two armed guards on the train itself, the N.C. Highway Patrol and the N.C. Division of Emergency Management asked for higher security, citing publicity about the route, timing, security plans and other details of the shipment, and past experience with protesters.

The state was also concerned that emergency responders in Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Robeson counties, through which the train will travel, might not have the proper radiological equipment and training.

Gov. Jim Hunt asked that DOE reverse its earlier decision that any measures beyond those required by federal standards would have to be provided by the states themselves.

The DOE will pay North Carolina more than \$45,000 for extra security by the N.C. Highway Patrol along the train route, including a helicopter and a 12-person security and emergency response team patrolling the route, and for radiological emergency equipment.

South Carolina will receive from the DOE either the funding or \$500,000 in emergency response equipment.

"North Carolina did not ask to have this material shipped through our state, and our citizens should not have to pay for ensuring that the shipment is done as safely as possible," said Hunt in a prepared statement.

At a public meeting in March with Brunswick County Commissioners, DOE representatives stressed that whatever security needs were considered necessary would be taken if a local port were chosen to receive the fuel rods. However, they also cautioned that if the cost were too high, the foreign governments involved might choose to withdraw from the program, defeating its purpose of taking nuclear weapons material out of circulation.

The company hired by the shippers to arrange the transport refused to pay the cost of additional security measures sought by the states, saying they were unnecessary and too costly. Instead the DOE will pay.

DOE has provided training for state and local personnel. Also, on Sept. 1 it participated in a tabletop "dry run" exercise hosted by the Southern States Energy Board in Augusta, Ga. The daylong event allowed 50 representatives from all involved agencies to review their roles and responsibilities in transport of the spent fuel and in response to any accident or incident such as a derailment or a public demonstration.

Two commercial ships scheduled to arrive the same day from Europe will deliver the rods to Sunny Point. They will be shipped by rail by CSX Transportation Inc. to Aiken.

## Authority Sets Sewer System Loan Application Hearing For Sept. 22

A public hearing will be held Sept. 22 by the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority on its application to the state for a \$5 million loan from the Clean Water Bond fund.

The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in an upstairs meeting room at Maples Clubhouse, Sea Trail Plantation.

The loan, administered by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental, Health and Natural Resources, would be just one part of the financing package for construction of a \$30 million sewer system to serve the general Sunset Beach-Calabash area. The authority also proposes to obtain a second low-interest loan from a state revolving loan fund and

to issue revenue bonds, with all financing to be repaid by user fees.

The authority cannot proceed with the project, including applying for permits or obtaining interim funding, until questions about the project's anticipated impact on the environment are settled. The authority hired a legal consultant to critique a revised and expanded study and usher it through review, with the goal of precluding the need for the more in-depth environmental impact statement pressed for by the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association.

Joe Tombro, project engineer for Piedmont Olsen-Hensley and acting manager for the authority, said Tuesday that the firm anticipates issuance within the next several

weeks of a FONSI—a finding that the project has "no significant impact" and that further environmental study is not needed.

The first phase of the regional sewer project will include installation of sewer collection lines in the Calabash downtown business district, with a proposal that the wastewater be treated initially by Little River Water & Sewer Authority in South Carolina.

Written comments will be accepted postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7. They should be mailed to the South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority, P.O. Box 6628, South Brunswick, N.C. 28470.

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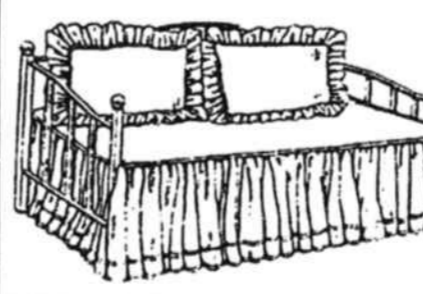
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