

OWASA aims to redefine public health term

■ 'Adverse public health conditions' were the topic of Wednesday's meeting.

BY JOHN GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

The revision of a definition by the Orange County Health Department could lead to county residents receiving help when their wastewater system is in trouble.

Orange County Environmental Health Director Ron Holdway presented a new definition of what the health department terms an "adverse public health condition" at a joint meeting of the Orange County Commissioners and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority on Wednesday night.

Holdway said that according to the new definition, an adverse public health condition could be declared when three criteria are met.

"In the case of existing wastewater systems, an adverse public health condition exists where it meets all of the following criteria: the wastewater system is failing; the wastewater system is documented to be failing by the Orange County Health Department; there is no on-site repair approvable or recommended by the Orange County Health Department."

County manager John Link said the definition was very difficult to come up with. "It's always difficult to define what constitutes a public health hazard," he said.

Link said some situations that the current policy did not consider an emergency could be critical to citizens con-

fronted with adverse situations.

"Someone needs to address the citizens' needs on this situation," he said.

According to county documents, the need for the change in definition came about due in part to a situation which arose recently in the Brookfield neighborhood where the wastewater system had malfunctioned.

Under the current County Water and Sewer Policy, county officials were prohibited from extending water or sewer utilities to the neighborhood.

The policy prohibits water and sewer extensions into the area because it falls under the jurisdiction of the University Lake watershed.

The only exception to this rule provided for in the policy is if the situation is deemed a "public health emergency."

Commissioner Alice Gordon said this was why the new broader definition

was needed. "We have been working on a new definition since the phrase 'public health emergency' is not well-defined."

OWASA representative Dan Vandermeer said the other major policy change that would occur if the definition was changed would be that the government would have more of a say in situations involving adverse public health conditions.

"The health department would no longer make the final decision (in public health controversies)," he said.

"The government would have a huge responsibility."

OWASA representative William Strom said it would be good for the citizens if the government had the final say rather than the health department.

"Citizens who have been afraid to ask for help can do so without fear of their homes being condemned."

Clinic bombing suspect linked to other incidents

■ Similar bomb types have linked a N.C. man to two abortion clinic bombings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BIRMINGHAM, Ala.

Investigators have drawn a link between the suspect in the bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic and a bombing at a clinic in Atlanta in January 1997, a federal agent familiar with the case said Wednesday.

The agent said that 1-inch flooring nails were used as shrapnel in the Atlanta bombing and nails from the same batch were found in a storage shed rented by Eric Robert Rudolph in North Carolina.

Laboratory analysis concluded that both samples of nails came from the same batch, "which was produced in and sold in a small area," according to the agent, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "These were not nails found in every hardware store in America."

Agents have been investigating whether the Jan. 29 bombing in Birmingham that killed a security guard

is connected to three Atlanta bombings: the abortion clinic, a gay nightclub a month later, and the Olympic Park bombing in July 1996.

The possible link between Rudolph and the Atlanta clinic bombing came as a government task force drastically reduced the number of agents searching in North Carolina for Rudolph.

About one-quarter of the more than 100 investigators who initially searched for Rudolph around Murphy, N.C., remain in the area, said Brian Lett, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Agents have ended daily, blanket searches of woods and caves and are concentrating on tracking down leads and checking possible sightings of Rudolph, he said.

"They are scaling back in Murphy but not totally withdrawing," said Lett. "There will remain a contingent of agents in Murphy."

FBI spokesman Richard Schott said agents leaving the western tip of North Carolina would return to normal duties or continue working on aspects of the bombing investigation other than the manhunt.

Dylan family wins big at Grammy awards

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Bob Dylan, who made a strong musical comeback in a year he suffered through a life-threatening illness, won two Grammys and his son, Jakob, also won two as the music business handed out its top honors Wednesday night.

Elton John also won a best male pop vocal performance Grammy for "Candle in the Wind 1997," his eulogy to Princess Diana that became the best-selling single of all time.

Rapper Puff Daddy, Lilith Fair founder Sarah McLachlan, country-bluegrass performer Alison Kraus, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the late newsman Charles Kuralt were also multiple win-

ners in the 40th annual awards show, held in Radio City Music Hall.

The first award handed out on the air went to Will Smith, for his "Men in Black" rap solo, from the hit movie in which he starred. He dedicated the prize to the late rappers Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G.



ELTON JOHN won a best male pop vocal performance Grammy for 'Candle in the Wind 1997,' his eulogy for Princess Diana.

Trisha Yearwood won for country female vocal performance.

"You have no idea how important this is to me tonight," Yearwood said. "This happened to me because of country radio. I love you. Thank you for your support."

Bob Dylan's album, "Time Out of Mind," won best contemporary folk album and was in the running for the more prestigious album of the year honors. A song from that album, "Cold Irons Bound," won for best male rock vocal performance.

Jakob Dylan won as a composer of the best rock song, "One Headlight," performed by his band, the Wallflowers. The same song was honored as the best

rock vocal performance by a duo or group.

Puff Daddy was honored with the best rap album Grammy for "No Way Out." His top-selling tribute to the Notorious B.I.G., "I'll Be Missing You," won for best rap performance by a duo or group. Known more as a producer, Puff Daddy wasn't even nominated in the best producer category.

Grammy's children's music category had a bittersweet tone. Kuralt, the former CBS newsmen who died on the Fourth of July, and singer John Denver, who died in a plane crash, both won awards. Kuralt also won for best spoken word album, beating out former President Jimmy Carter.

CALDWELL
FROM PAGE 1

set an example for future black officers. He said that as an officer he could not become involved with the movement. In fact, he had to arrest some protesters.

"My hat was off to them," he said. "Anything I could do for them off the record, I did it."

Meanwhile, Hilliard became co-chairman of the Chapel Hill Freedom Committee and established himself as a central figure in the local struggle for civil rights.

"(David) was in an awkward position," Hilliard said. "He had to do his part and we had to do our part as demonstrators at a particular time."

Hilliard recalled one demonstration on Franklin Street, where an elderly preacher was arrested while demonstrating for the Chapel Hill Freedom Committee. Hilliard said this event inspired him. "If this 80-year-old man could fight for us, it was time for me to get arrested as a leader of the movement," Hilliard said.

At the next demonstration, a sit-in in front of the Tar Heel Sandwich Shop on Columbia Street, Hilliard said he was dragged from the protest by Lindy Pendergrass, currently the Orange County sheriff.

Pendergrass said the police and protesters in Chapel Hill had a good relationship thanks to communication between local civil rights groups and the police department.

"There was a cause at that time," Pendergrass said. "They demonstrated. There was no ill will on anybody's part. We understood why they did it."

Pendergrass said he and Hilliard had been friends for over 40 years.

"He's just an outstanding individual," he said. "He's someone who I like to say is my friend."

Hilliard said many places in Chapel Hill integrated voluntarily because their owners felt it was the right thing to do.

After his days with the civil rights movement, he continued to play an active role in the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities, including spending 14 years working in the school system.

"When I was working in the school system, I think I touched a lot of youngsters lives," he said. "I made them see there is a better tomorrow. You can get to that better tomorrow if you want to, but it's up to you."

Carrboro Alderman Hank Anderson worked with Hilliard in the school system.

"He's a fine person and he's helped the young people in this community," Anderson said.

Although race relations have improved considerably, racism remains a problem in Chapel Hill, Hilliard said.

"It raises its ugly head every now and then, even with me — an adult who had seen this community both segregated and integrated."

The Caldwell's fight for civil rights did not stop with desegregation.

In the last decade, Capt. Danny Caldwell, who has worked for University Police for more than 17 years, has fought against discrimination in his department and at the University.

This past fall, he supported Lt. C.E. Swain by filing a complaint against the University with him in September and a grievance in October.

Swain found himself at the center of the controversy after issuing a citation for underage drinking to Caroline

Hancock, 19, daughter of Board of Trustees member Billy Armfield.

A decade ago, Danny filed a brief supporting Lt. Keith Edwards, a former UNC officer who spent eight years in litigation against the University before she was awarded back pay and attorney's expenses in a racial discrimination suit.

"It's a long fight," Danny said of his efforts. "As long as I see something that's racist or wrong, I'm going to join in the fight."

Edwards said she and Danny did not think they were taking a huge step when she filed her grievance against the University in 1987, but the struggle of

dealing with the lengthy litigation helped make Danny the fighter he is today, she said.

Danny's family members said they supported him as he continued the family tradition of fighting for civil rights.

"He's a Caldwell, and I admire him," Hilliard said of Danny's efforts. "I'm behind him as an elected official and as a family member."

Danny's brother Larry, also a University Police lieutenant, said Danny had seen more problems during his career as a police officer than he had, and Danny worked to correct them.

"Danny has done what he believes

in," Larry said.

Before moving to University Police, Larry served as one of the first blacks on the N.C. State Highway Patrol.

Although he supports Danny's efforts, Larry said he saw the department's problems as management issues, rather than racial issues.

Although the Caldwell family has remained influential in shaping the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities, David Caldwell said he was reluctant to characterize his family as extraordinary.

"We liked our name, and we've done anything we possibly could to keep the name clean and clear."

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