

January 18, 2010

Proposal to UNC-Chapel Hill

To improve collaboration, information flow and transparency and to ensure more sustainable operations at the UNC-CH Research Resource Facility in Bingham Township, we propose taking the following steps:

1. Establish communication networks and community relations

- **Identify a point person or persons at UNC for proactive and timely communications** regarding schedules and advance notification of construction, incinerator use, wastewater spraying, equipment maintenance and inspections, malfunctions, violations and responses, leaks and catastrophic events affecting the environment and surrounding community.
- **Meet to discuss plans and establish communications by the end of February**, with members of Preserve Rural Orange, RRF neighbors, Orange County staff and officials, local environmental leaders, state air and water quality officials, and UNC-CH representatives including: Nelson Garnett (DLAM Interim Director), Adam Bakowski (DLAM RRF Facility Manager), RRF staff, Mary Beth Koza and Larry Daw (Environment, Health & Safety), Gene Bober (School of Medicine), John Phillips (engineer consultant), Larry Band (Institute for the Environment), and David Owens (School of Government). To facilitate in-depth discussion with all parties, we propose smaller meetings for focused discussions, as well as larger inclusive meetings.
- **Form community advisory group and begin discussions leading to a written agreement** to minimize and mitigate environmental and human health impacts of operations and future RRF expansion plans. Issues of concern are: safeguards and monitoring of incinerator use, wastewater spraying, water use and quality, impacts on area wells, and transportation.
- **Provide maps and printed information** detailing the following items discussed at the December 14, 2009 meeting of neighbors and UNC-CH representatives: construction plans and future wastewater spray fields; specific plans, intended uses, species and number of animals to be housed in each building; animal waste, medical waste, bedding and carcass disposal procedures; and waste water, water use and incinerator current operations, future plans, standard operating procedures, safeguards and monitoring.
- **Plan a site visit and tour of the facility** for interested neighbors, county officials and county staff.

2. Ensure environmental and health safety, water and air quality, sustainable water use

- **Test water at established intervals for baseline and future levels of toxins, pathogens and pharmaceuticals**, including water on UNC property, in Collins Creek and creek tributary, and in neighbors' wells.
- **Test Collins Creek and tributaries for wastewater, toxins, pathogens and pharmaceuticals** and implement plans to mitigate damage and prevent future spills.
- **Recycle water in facility operations wherever possible** to reduce well water use.
- **Discontinue incineration at the facility and remove aging incinerator** from site to reduce toxic emissions and prevent future malfunctions.