



Preserve Rural Orange.org

POST OFFICE BOX 1314 CARRBORO, NC 27510

(919) 593-5411

September 28, 2011

Coleen Sullins, Director
Division of Water Quality
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Dear Ms. Sullins:

We are writing to request a public hearing regarding the University of North Carolina's application submitted on August 18, 2011 for a major modification to Non-Discharge Permit # WQ002389, to rebuild and expand wastewater and spray irrigation systems at the UNC Research Facility in Bingham Township, Orange County.

Community members have significant concerns regarding the proposed infrastructure's impact on ground water, surface waters, the surrounding environment and public health, and would like an opportunity to comment on UNC's application before changes are approved. Among the top concerns are the increased footprint of spray irrigation fields, proposed flows and yearly maximums, storage and disposal of domestic and animal waste, and public disclosure of planned discharges.

We, the undersigned*, ask for a public hearing to share these concerns while DWQ is in the process of considering the university's permit application. We hope the outcome will be a plan that ultimately minimizes adverse impacts on the environmental health of Collins Creek, the watershed, neighboring wells, and properties adjacent to and downstream from the UNC facility. Please send us advance notice when a hearing is scheduled, to the following address: info@preserveruralorange.org

Thank you,

-Laura Streitfeld

Chair, Board of Directors
Preserve Rural Orange

**See attached list of signatories.*

cc: Jay Zimmerman, Aquifer Protection Supervisor, DWQ Raleigh Regional Office
Jon Risgaard, Land Application Unit Supervisor, DWQ Raleigh Regional Office

Preserve Rural Orange (PRO) is a nonprofit citizen organization established in 2009 to protect watershed land and farms in Orange County, North Carolina. Providing timely public education on potential impacts of development to 500+ subscribers, PRO has been influential in promoting constructive community engagement in issues affecting rural residents, farmers, the environment and public health.

THE MISSION OF PRESERVE RURAL ORANGE IS TO PRESERVE, STRENGTHEN AND DEFEND THE VIABILITY OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF WATERSHED LAND, FARMS AND WOODLANDS IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.