

# TIMELINE: UNC ANIMAL RESEARCH FACILITY

## 1907 ORANGE CHAPEL CLOVER GARDEN ROAD, CHAPEL HILL, NC

**1971**

### UNC BUYS 56.6 ACRES

from Anthony & Isabelle Jacobs in agricultural residential zone at 1907 Orange Chapel Clover Garden Road.

**1972-2002**

### ACTIVITIES UNKNOWN

The university builds and operates a 6,616 square foot (s.f.) research facility. Lab animal and human waste are discharged directly into Collins Creek for an undisclosed period.

**2002**

### 12,960 MOUSE CAGES

UNC plans to build a “mouse house” with 12,960 cages.

**2003**

### 26,000 RODENTS

State approves 10,000 s.f. rodent retention facility for 26,000 research rodents.

**2004**

### EXPANSION: 56,350 S.F.

UNC plans research campus: 5 pig enclosures: 24,000; s.f. 2 dog kennels: 10,000 s.f. rodent facility: 11,000 s.f. blood lab: 8,850 s.f.

office: 1,500 s.f. kennel & lab: 1,000 s.f.

**2006**

### MASTER PLAN

13 structures, 35 employees, 1.6 million gallon animal wastewater lagoon, 49 parking spaces.

**2006**

### MASTER PLAN

UNC Environmental Assessment: “No wetlands” at site and “no impacts on surface waters.”

**2007**

### WASTEWATER LAGOONS

UNC builds a new building and two waste lagoons: one permitted for 75,000 gallons, one “deemed” permitted holding 1.6 million gallons. Both are built with faulty liners and leaking pipes.

**2008**

### UNC AIRPORT

NC Senate Bill 1925 empowers UNC to seize land, build and control Orange County “airport & amusements” with public funds to serve primarily special interests. #1 Orange County site: 25 private properties adjoining UNC Animal Research Facility.

**2009**

### EQUIPMENT FAILURES

**February:** PRO asks for a meeting with UNC officials for information on expansion plans. **June:** PRO requests UNC public records on facility operations. **September:** UNC asks PRO for \$5,000 payment & signed agreement to pay unknown fees to look at records.

**October:** Consultants note to UNC: lagoon flaws, leak likely.

**November:** UNC delays testing lagoon, citing Thanksgiving holiday.

**December:** UNC reports illegal discharge to NC DW53 days after leak was first observed

**2010**

### VIOLATIONS

DWQ officials photograph dyed wastewater spilling into Collins Creek. PRO & neighbors meet that night with UNC officials. UNC leaders to neighbors & county: Spill did not reach creek.

**January:** PRO exposes a series of research wastewater spills, system failures, incinerator failure. DWQ issues notices of violation & penalties, revokes wastewater permits.

**February:** Toxic solvents contaminate septic system, UNC notifies state and neighbors weeks later.

**March:** UNC shuts down facility wastewater systems, hauls waste to OWASA, contracts for hazardous waste cleanup, hires consultants McKim & Creed, and commits to notifying PRO & neighbors of permit applications & correspondence with state regulators.

**April:** UNC facility awarded \$14.5 million NIH stimulus construction grant for expansion. County planners notify UNC that wastewater system was constructed without required Special Use Permit

**May:** UNC leaders acknowledge waste spray fields & road built on previously undisclosed wetlands.

**June:** UNC officials to Orange County Commissioners: UNC will apply for special use permit.

**July:** NIH sends detailed questions about failed wastewater systems to UNC. UNC officials to PRO: will conduct water quality and aquifer stress tests on neighboring wells. University purchases 7-acre residential Lombardo adjacent to wastewater systems. **August:** UNC



## TIMELINE: UNC ANIMAL RESEARCH FACILITY (continued)

returns \$14.5 million grant to NIH. Plan to run natural gas line to facility. **September:** UNC to White Cross Volunteer Fire Dept & PRO: plan to install water collection tank, & possible equipment donation for VFD. **December:** UNC announces plan for small animals only at facility, no natural gas line. UNC submits site plan for county approval.

### 2011

#### BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

**May-August:** UNC applies to DWQ for erosion control, wastewater and stormwater permits without notifying neighbors or posting on UNC web page.

**August:** UNC to PRO: no news, no permit applications. UNC builds new road and installs bulk LP propane plant, 4,000 s.f. concrete pad and two 18,000-gallon bulk propane tanks, without county site plan approval. Propane tanks are deliberately located above a gully to send potential leaks down to the creek. Previous UNC bulk propane on site was never authorized by the NC Department of Agriculture.

### 2012

#### EXPANSION TO 80 ACRES

UNC leadership ceases all communications with Preserve Rural Orange regarding operations and plans for the UNC Animal Research Facility.

NC DWQ holds public hearing on UNC wastewater permit application

UNC acquires 8-acre Lobotsky property w/2 residences and 10-acre Pickard property adjacent to wastewater systems and failed lagoon. UNC denies PRO requests for detailed information on NIH and other funding sources used for

\$813,500 in property acquisitions in 2010 and 2012. PRO submits inquiries to NC Auditor and DOJ.

### 2013

#### CONSTRUCTION

**March:** DWQ issues wastewater permit to UNC facility with monitoring conditions.

**August:** \$4.5 million construction project begins to replace and expand failed new wastewater irrigation fields and lagoons.

**September:** Raw wastewater leaks from underground pipes damaged during construction at UNC facility.

UNC consults with historic preservationists about costs of saving and relocating old farmhouse on property.

#### MORE INFORMATION

For public documents and additional details on the UNC facility, visit:

[http://preserveruralorange.org/UNC\\_AnimalResearch\\_Facility.html](http://preserveruralorange.org/UNC_AnimalResearch_Facility.html)

