

-----Original Message-----

From: Edward C. Harrison [mailto:ed.harrison@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2004 4:07 PM
To: Cal Horton; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Council Member Cam Hill;
Dorothy Verkerk; Jim Ward (w); Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt; Jim Ward; Edith
Wiggins
Cc: George Small; Fred Royal; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Flo Miller;
Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Sonna Loewenthal; Owen Franklin; Emily Dickens
Subject: Comment on Sutzenfield letter

From Ed H:

Late last month, I queried Mark Senior, stormwater manager for the City of
Raleigh, as follows:

"I would be interested in knowing how Raleigh proposes to deal with NC State
campus as a component of the utility -- or, if NCSU is letting you do so."

Mark and I are fellow members of the NC Water Resources Association, and of
the Triangle J Council of Government's Water Resources Committee.

NCSU is very likely an even larger component of the UNC system in terms of
municipal land area than UNC-CH. Each campus dwarfs other components of
the UNC system.

I find Mr. Senior's point about the limits of the NPDES permit program
particularly interesting. What controls on volume (quantity) is UNC
placing on existing development which drains downstream to the rest of
Chapel Hill?

From: "Senior, Mark" <Mark.Senior@ci.raleigh.nc.us>
Date: Thu, 29 Jan 2004 17:18:59 -0500
To: "Edward C. Harrison" <ed.harrison@mindspring.com>
Subject: RE: Raleigh utility and NCSU

Mr. Harrison:

The City of Raleigh will be sending a bill to NCSU. Our consultant's
research indicates that across the country, other universities have been
paying stormwater utility fees. In the case of NCSU, they actually have a
Phase I NPDES permit and under Raleigh's proposed credit system, they will
be eligible for up to a 15% credit depending on what NPDES functions they
provide that Raleigh will not have to. Please keep in mind that Raleigh's
utility includes funding of both water quality and quantity programs. Since
the NPDES program is essentially only quality, having a permit program only
addresses part of the stormwater utility operation and funding needs.
Consequently, NCSU would never be eligible for exemption or a 100% credit.

Mark Sr.

> On behalf of Chancellor Moeser, I'm submitting the letter below for
> publication. Please let me know if you have any questions.
>
> Letter to the Editor
> Chapel Hill Herald
>
> Dear Editor:
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> A recent article, "Storm water utility bubbles to the surface" raised
> questions about the University's stormwater
> management program. I want to inform your readers that Carolina is a
> recognized leader in stormwater management,
> employing best management practices across our campus.
>
> Our stormwater program includes infiltration beds under athletic fields,
> parking lots with porous pavement, street and
> parking lot vacuuming to keep pollutants out of the storm sewer system,
> and signage that reminds "don't dump; drains
> to creek." We meet OI-4 zoning requirements that prohibit increased
> stormwater volume or pollutant load.
>
> The article raised the question of the University's participation in a
> stormwater utility the Town might create to fund
> the mandates of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
> (NPDES) program. The University has already
> made significant investments on projects to assure compliance with NPDES
> requirements using \$10 million in higher
> education bond money and other state appropriations.
>
> A stormwater utility is not an NPDES requirement. It is simply a
> vehicle to raise revenue, and the University's
> decision not to participate in the Town's stormwater utility is solely a
> fiscal one. The taxpayers of North Carolina
> have already paid for our stormwater management program; they and our
> students should not be asked to pay twice
> via the proposed utility.
>
> Our decision will not impair our ability to comply with national and
> local standards for stormwater, or diminish our
> ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.
>
> Yours truly,
>
> Nancy D. Suttentfield
> Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
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