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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
Office of the Chancellor

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July 19, 2002

Honorable Kevin C. Foy
Mayor, Town of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy:

I write in response to your June 28, 2002 letter requesting information about two waste sites on the University's Horace Williams property. The two sites, considered Inactive Sites by the State of North Carolina, are formally known as the UNC Airport Waste Disposal Site (chemical site) and the UNC Old Sanitary Landfill (landfill site). Neither site contains a toxic waste pond nor appears on the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) list. The chemical site's rank is 229 out of 474 sites on the State's priority list; the landfill site's rank is 236.

A Remedial Investigation Report and a Remedial Action Plan for the chemical site were prepared by Arcadis Geraghty & Miller in 1996, and provided to the Town on March 7, 1997. An additional copy of each was delivered on April 10, 2002. A draft Remedial Investigation Report for the landfill site was prepared by RUST Environment and Infrastructure (now Earth Tech) in 1997, and a copy is enclosed with this letter. These are the most recent reports on the sites.

Also enclosed are surface water and groundwater sampling reports and copies of communications with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) since the remedial investigation reports were completed. We have had no communications with federal agencies about these sites since then. We have earlier correspondence dating back as far as the 1970's, but the comprehensive reports prepared by the consultants and the subsequent correspondence present a full picture of the current situation.

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While currently under no state or federal order requiring remediation, the University plans to remediate the sites in conjunction with the planning for development of Carolina North. As for the landfill, we are still in the process of assessing who bears financial responsibility for the site. The remediation approaches are dependent upon the location of buildings and roads in the final plan for Carolina North, and need to be coordinated with the vacating of the property leased by the Town as well as with the identification of appropriate funding sources. Until remediation begins, the University will continue its periodic sampling of groundwater and surface water, and will provide the Town with the results of the sampling as it occurs. Groundwater sampling is completed biennially, with the next sampling scheduled for fall 2002. Surface water sampling is completed semi-annually if there is water in Crow Branch Creek. The creek has been dry for over a year.

Let me stress again the University's intent to remediate these sites at the appropriate point in the planning for the development of Carolina North, or as funding is identified. We believe the value of the Horace Williams property to the University and to the community is best served by remediation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


James Moeser