

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 6:53 PM

To: Laura's Email

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Research Resource Facility

Hello Laura,

Thank you for your communication of January 18. My January 14 email message was in keeping with our commitment to follow up on several of the items that we discussed at our December 14 meeting.

We understand that a single communication does not address the interest in building a system for regular communication, and we definitely support the latter. We look forward to working with you to build this network and to use it. With that said, you should know that we have put some thought to this and that one of the decisions we made was to notify the neighbors of any incidents at the Bingham Facility that are reportable to DENR.

Along those lines, I think you should also know that the pond leak incidents that I shared with you prior to our December meeting were discovered just days prior to my calling you, not much earlier as one newspaper article reported. While we have not formalized the structures for reporting and communications, we have clearly embraced the concept of openness and we are committed to working with you on identifying the most appropriate mechanisms. In the meantime, I will serve as the point person for UNC communications.

Your letter includes several specific requests for communications vehicles and other commitments related to the operation of the Bingham Facility. I have shared your letter with the appropriate parties here on campus. Clearly, I will have to have feedback from my colleagues before I am in position to respond or to make commitments in specific areas. As you requested, we have attached the University's response to DENR.

Again, thank you for your letter and for the clarity of your requests. I will be in touch as soon as possible to share with you the feedback that I receive and to plan the next steps in our deliberations.

Best regards,
Dwayne

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2010 12:33 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Research Resource Facility



January 18, 2010

Hi Dwayne,

I'm writing to thank you for arranging our meeting last month and bringing together representatives from across the university to talk with community members about operations and expansions plans for the UNC Research Resource Facility (RRF). We appreciated everyone taking the time to meet, answer questions and share information, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue.

Though the meeting was a positive step, we were unhappy to learn about the incinerator malfunction and several wastewater leaks long after they occurred, only days before the meeting. It is particularly troubling that there have been three wastewater leaks within three months as well as the incinerator fire and malfunction, and that neighbors and the public were not notified of incidents occurring over several months even as we repeatedly requested that UNC communicate about these very issues. We are concerned as well that you were not made aware of the incidents earlier. The university also failed to notify neighbors that on December 14th, the day we met, NC DENR Aquifer Protection investigators documented dyed animal wastewater spilling into Collins Creek, resulting in the notice of violation. Please follow up by providing us a copy of the response due back today to DENR, with **UNC's short-term** and long-term plans to repair the faulty animal wastewater system.

To improve collaboration, information flow and transparency and to ensure more sustainable operations, we propose taking the following steps:

1. Establish communication networks & 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 meeting: 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 and 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.

Please let me know your thoughts on the above by phone or by email.

Thank you,

-Laura

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Laura Streitfeld
Chair, Preserve Rural Orange

Email laika@mebtel.net
Phone (919) 801-7294

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.

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