Friends and neighbors:

Because of the problems with the wastewater treatment systems at the Bingham Facility, we have decided that we will shut down both systems at the facility temporarily so that we can implement the necessary repairs. The systems shutdown will occur as soon as we have approval of an application that will allow us to pump and haul the wastewater for treatment. Otherwise, operations at the facility will continue as usual. We notified the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources of our decision and our plans earlier today.

Attached you will find, as promised, the letter that we sent Monday in response to the Feb. 3 notice of intent we received from DENR. As you will read, we take the problems at the Bingham Facility very seriously. We are devoting tremendous effort and resources to fixing them, including hiring an engineering company for greater oversight and review as we prepare our application to permit the formerly deemed permitted system.

On Friday, we also informed DENR about an incident involving extra water – possibly from recent rains and snow – seeping into a concrete water tank and causing a high water alarm to go off. An estimated 400 gallons of excess water got into the tank, but since no water spilled onto the ground, DENR has confirmed that this is not in violation of our permit. However, in light of recent incidents, we wanted to make both the regulators and our neighbors aware of the situation and of our efforts to make repairs so that it is not repeated.

You will also find attached a message from Chancellor Holden Thorp about changes in the operations of the Bingham Facility.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Pinkney