Friends and neighbors:

As we have been saying, much of the expansion at the Bingham Facility depends upon funding from a federal grant. That grant is still pending, but one of the requirements for being able to accept the grant if it is awarded is that we publish a legal notice in the newspaper. That notice will appear in the News & Observer’s A section on March 15. I have included the text, which is based on a standard sample suggested by the National Institutes of Health, below so that you wouldn’t be surprised to see it in the newspaper or read it as confirmation that funding has been received. UNC has not been awarded the grant yet.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine proposes to construct two buildings at the Bingham Facility using federal funds. The grant application for the federal funds contains a description of the environmental and community impacts of the proposed construction. There will be construction noise and increased construction traffic during the construction period. No significant permanent environmental impacts are foreseen. All applicable permits and approvals will be obtained.

In accordance with Federal Executive Order 11514, which implements the NEPA of 1969, any individual or group may comment on, or request information concerning the environmental implications of the proposed project. Communications should be addressed to the Medical School Planning Office, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and be received by April 14, 2010. The federal grant application may be reviewed at the Medical School Planning Office, 425 MacNider Hall, Monday through Friday between 8 am and 5 pm. You can contact the office at 919-966-2441.

The University will update the Environmental Assessment as part of the development of the grant-funded facilities. We will submit to the State Clearinghouse for review and integrate their comments into our planning process.

I have also included a notice of violation that we received from DENR March 3. This notice is for the Feb. 18 breakage of the distribution line from the pump house to the spray field that resulted in approximately 1,800 gallons of treated waste water being released onto the ground surface. As in the previous notice of violation from DENR, about the pond leak that reached Collins Creek, we received the notice because of the method of release involved. Our permit allows us to spray irrigate the treated wastewater, not to allow water to pour out on the ground or discharge into the creek. A notice of violation does not mean that any contamination of the soil, groundwater or creek has occurred. This notice is for a past incident that we have informed you about before (on February 19); our wastewater
treatment systems at the Bingham Facility are still shut down and we are pumping and hauling the wastes there to OWASA for treatment.

Earlier this week (Monday evening), I presented information about the current and planned operations at the Bingham Facility to the Orange County Commission for The Environment. This meeting was at the invitation of the Commission and much of the discussion focused on the past incidents related to the operation of the wastewater treatment system that is now shut down.

Finally, I received an inquiry from Laura Streitfeld this afternoon about individuals seen on or near the UNC property and Collins Creek. I have asked our staff about any work underway at the site and will report any information to you that is confirmed.

Thanks and have a great weekend,

Dwayne

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