Friends and neighbors:

Attached you will find a letter from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources that assesses UNC with a civil penalty of $16,614.28 ($15,000 for the penalty and the rest for investigative costs) for past violations of our wastewater treatment permit. This penalty covers the Dec. 18 Notice of Violation and two incidents, the Nov. 18 pipe leak in which 630 gallons of highly treated wastewater seeped into the ground and the December leak from the large pond holding treated wastewater to be spray-irrigated on the site.

When we received the Notice of Violation from DENR in December, we knew that the agency could also impose a fine on the University, so we were not surprised to get this letter. We realize more penalties may be forthcoming because of the other violation notices. We will continue to share that and other correspondence with DENR with this email list in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, we are moving forward with a study of an integrated water system for the Bingham Facility that will treat the wastewater generated there to the level of reclaimed water, which addresses your concerns about water usage and water quality. We will continue to update DENR and Orange County on our progress, to make sure past mistakes are not repeated.

Sincerely,

Dwayne