



UNC
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH & SAFETY

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Environment, Health & Safety
1120 Estes Drive Ext., CB# 1650
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599

December 11, 2009

Matthew Fleahman
DENR Division of Water Quality
Raleigh Regional Office
1628 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1628

Subject: Large Storage Pond Leak, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), Research Resource Facility (UNC-Chapel Hill Bingham Facility), Animal Waste Treatment System (Deemed Permitted System)

Dear Mr. Fleahman:

This letter is a follow up to my telephone conversation with Lin McCartney on November 10, 2009.


Over the last several days, UNC-Chapel Hill has been investigating the subject storage pond to evaluate the integrity of the liner. Dye testing has determined that the liner is leaking. Water that leaks through the liner is collected by an under-drain system, and the under-drain discharge is located south of the pond, about 70 feet from a creek.

It is not known when the liner started leaking. Currently, the under-drain system discharges about 1 gallon per minute. Some of the under-drain discharge likely includes groundwater. The under-drain system was originally designed to dewater the area during construction, to relieve groundwater pressure on the liner, and to provide a means of leak detection.

We have a plan to begin collecting the under-drain discharge and to direct the water back to the large storage pond, thus avoiding any discharge to the creek. It will take several days to implement the plan. In the longer term, we will work to identify and repair the source of the leak.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



J. Laurence Daw, L.G.
Geophysicist/Licensed Geologist

Cc: Mary Beth Koza