

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN
THE
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
JOINT SANFORD-LEE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
3007 BEECHTREE DRIVE
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27330

JANUARY 28, 2016

Three members of the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the Joint Sanford-Lee County Environmental Affairs Board met at 6 p.m. on said date at New Hope Baptist Church, 3007 Beechtree Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, for a work session in reference to water issues on Colon Road. Commissioners in attendance included Amy M. Dalrymple, Timothy S. Sloan, and Kirk D. Smith. Staff in attendance included County Manager John Crumpton, County Attorney Kerry Self, Clerk to the Board Gaynell Lee, and Deputy Clerk Danielle Mahoney.

Ms. April Montgomery, Chair of the Joint Environmental Affairs Board called the work session to order.

Ms. Amy Dalrymple, Chair of the Lee County Board of Commissioners welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the work session of the two boards.

Mr. Heath Cain, Environmental Health Supervisor presented a power-point presentation with the following timeline:

- October 7, 2015 – the County mailed 77 letters to 101 properties within the 1,000 feet buffer area of the Colon Mine Coal Ash site offering free private well and surface water sampling,
- December 7, 2015 – Commissioners voted to extend the buffer area to a ½ mile radius providing free baseline sampling to property owners,
- December 22, 2015 – the County mailed 157 letters to 228 properties within the ½ mile area of the coal ash site offering free private well and surface water sampling,
- January 21, 2016 – 37 samples collected to date; 21 private wells collected; 69 letters have been received; deadline for mailing letters to Environmental Health is January 31, 2016, and
- January 28, 2016 – Environmental Health has informed 15 property owners of the recommendation from NCDHHS not to drink and/or cook with their well water due to elevated levels of Hexavalent Chromium and/or Vanadium.

Mr. Cain stated that 9 of the 15 private well samples conveyed elevated levels of Hexavalent Chromium, 15 of the 15 private well samples conveyed elevated levels of Vanadium, and 7 of the 15 private well samples conveyed elevated levels of Sodium.

Dr. Randall Williams, NC State Health Director was on hand and provided information on the Department of Health and Human Services' position regarding elevated chemical levels. Mr. Williams stated the federal government controls city water and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) controls groundwater. The State tests new wells but not old wells – up to the individual to have those tested. His office issued the Health Risk Evaluation advising residents not to drink or cook with the water until more testing could be completed. It is anticipated that DEQ will have completed all water testing within the next 3 weeks, at which time his office will re-evaluate their recommendation. Until then, he advised people with known elevated levels in their water not to drink or cook with it.

A question – answer time was allowed for board members and citizens to ask questions and make comments.

A second joint meeting is scheduled for 6 – 8 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2016, with location to be determined.

The work session adjourned at 8 p.m.



Amy M. Dalrymple, Chair
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk to the Board