

Waste plant plans worry base officials

By CLIFF HILL
Daily News Staff

Camp Lejeune officials are concerned about the plan for a privately owned sewage treatment facility that will discharge about 500,000 gallons of treated water into Wallace Creek, according to Lt. Col. David F. Tomsy of the base Joint Public Affairs Office.

A permit, issued to Webb Creek Water and Sewage Inc. by the state Division of Environmental Management, authorizes a discharge of up to 500,000 gallons per day into Wallace Creek and a like amount into Webb Creek.

A legal notice concerning the issuance of the permit for the plant was published in the Daily News on Nov. 18, 1985.

The treatment plant is to support a "large housing development" east of Secondary Road 1501, Sand Ridge Road, just south of Swansboro, according to a memorandum from Charles Wakild of the state DEM to county Commissioner Larry Fitzpatrick.

Base officials were unaware the treatment plant was to be constructed in the Bear Creek area until recently, Tomsy said. "Camp Lejeune officials were not notified officially or unofficially," Tomsy said.

Required permits evidently were requested through the state Department of Transportation for a pipeline right-of-way along N.C. 24 to the headwaters of Wallace Creek, Tomsy said.

Base officials were not the only ones surprised by the construction of the facility. The county Board of Commissioners discussed the new facility at its March 23 meeting.

That meeting was marked by commissioner conflict as members said they were concerned that they did not know about the plant in the Bear Creek area until recently. The discussion became so heated that Chairman Paul Starzynski called a recess to allow tempers to cool and consensus to jell.

Some board members wanted a change in county ordinances that would require all development plans to come before the Board of Commissioners, so the board would know in advance about waste water treatment plants and other facilities. Now, plans are only required to go before the county Planning Board.

But the Board of Commissioners did not change the ordinances because county Attorney Roger Moore said it would entail holding public hearings. The board did agree to ask the county Planning Board to let them review development plans on an informal basis.

Base officials are concerned about the "increased discharge of sewage water" and the possible environmental effects on fish and wildlife as well as the suitability of the creek for recreational use by base personnel, Tomsy said.

He added that base officials are currently trying to obtain more information about this issue and what actions, if any, may be taken.



Staff photo by Randy Davey

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Linda Barnes of the county Planning Department will present a final draft of the study to members of the county Planning Board during the meeting. The study is designed to look at subdivision plats ap-
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