

Final site plan filed for a future landfill Site unlikely to open for at least 10 years

By Michael Hewlett
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Officials with the City-County Utilities Division filed a final site plan yesterday as part of its request to rezone property that straddles the Forsyth and Stokes county lines for a construction and demolition landfill.

The 434-acre site is near the intersection of Fagg Road and U.S. 311, the bulk of the land being in Forsyth County.

The City-County Planning Board is scheduled to consider the request Dec. 8.

Commissioners in Forsyth and Stokes counties would have to approve the rezoning.

If approved, the landfill would not open for a number of years. It could take as long as two years to get the state permits required to open a landfill. The N.C. Department of Environmental and Natural Resources would inspect the landfill four times a year, and the utilities division would hire a company to regularly test surface and ground water for contaminants and send those results to the state.

The landfill would not be fully opened until the existing one on Old Salisbury Road is closed, which is not expected for 10 years or more. The landfill would take in rock, brick, wood and other materials left over from buildings that are under construction or being demolished.

On Oct. 27, officials held an informational meeting for residents who live near the proposed landfill.

Residents told officials that they were concerned about traffic, said David Saunders, the utility director.

Earlier this year, residents who lived near Walkertown were upset about plans to build a construction and demolition landfill on 382 acres on the east side of U.S. 311, just north of Grubbs Road. Those plans fell through after officials had difficulty acquiring options from a property owner who had health problems.

The new site came together when, in April, city officials agreed to pay \$10,000 in options to Deborah B. and Thomas R. Cochran and Jean R. Wilson for their land. The purchase price was \$1.92 million. Officials have agreed to pay \$1,000 for an option on 8 acres owned by Elizabeth Z. Ziglar, said Greg Turner, the assistant city manager for public works. The city is pursuing options on a 3-acre site in Stokes County that is owned by James Howard and Carolyn J. Brown.

The bulk of the land, 316 acres, is in Forsyth County. A separate 118-acre site is in Stokes County.

Stokes and Forsyth County have had an agreement for more than 10 years that allows Stokes to haul its waste to Forsyth County.

Stokes County plans to use its part of the landfill as a staging area for recycling, said Jay Kinney, the county's public-works director.

Saunders said that residents may have issues with having a landfill nearby, but he wants to do everything he can to educate people about the proposed construction and demolition landfill.

"The idea is to make folks aware of what our intent is," he said.

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