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Development's Waste Water Causes Worries

Environmentalists Say Cliffs Has Come Up With Solution

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GREENVILLE COUNTY, S.C. -- A large new development in northern Greenville County is asking the state for a permit to discharge treated waste water into the North Saluda River.

Construction is already under way at the new Cliffs community, Cliffs at Mountain Park. Part of the large project is figuring out what to do with all the wastewater it will produce -- and that's something that's caught the eye of Upstate Forever, a local environmental group.

Jason Van Dresche with Upstate Forever said, "The Cliffs has worked with us in good faith to come up with a solution that is better for the river -- in how they treat their wastewater as well as how they treat their golf course."

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But, not everyone agrees on how this should be done. Now, the South Carolina department of health and environmental control must decide if they'll approve a large wastewater discharge permit for the development.

This permit would allow waste-water to be treated and land applied, which means it will be used to water the golf course.

But as a back-up, the permit asks for permission to discharge it in the river.

Van Dresche said, "No waste water system is fool-proof. You have break-downs, you have system malfunctions. And it's creating quite an uproar for those who live near the area."

"The fish can't speak in the river -- the blue herons, the wood ducks -- all this will be affected. And the people in Easley will ultimately be affected because they are downstream from us," resident Diane Anastos said.

Upstate Forever is hoping to convince DHEC to consider other options.

Van Dresche said, "What we like to see is for them to have a large enough holding pond that if there is a big rain event they can basically take all of their affluent, put it in this holding

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pond, and not do anything with it until the flood has passed and then keep applying it to their golf course."

WYFF News 4 tried to reach representatives with the Cliffs Properties, but they have not yet responded.

There is a public hearing on the issue Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at North Greenville University.

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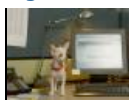
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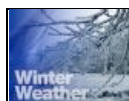


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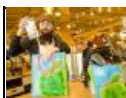


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