

## LOCAL NEWS

# Cliffs wastewater plan draws protests

## Concerns raised about irrigation of Saluda golf course

By Rudolph Bell  
STAFF WRITER  
dbell@greenvillenews.com

**TRAVELERS REST** — Environmental and citizen groups are continuing to object to developer Jim Anthony's plans for high-end homes and a golf course along the North Saluda River in northern Greenville County.

At a public hearing Thursday evening, several groups protested Anthony's latest plan for handling wastewater at the Cliffs at Mountain Park, the luxury

real estate community his company is building near the intersection of State 11 and U.S. 25.

At issue was a plan to dispose of the development's wastewater by spreading it across 30 wooded acres in the development. Previously, Anthony's company, the Cliffs Communities Inc., had proposed spraying the wastewater on a golf course that it plans to build along the river.

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control arranged the hear-

ing at Travelers Rest High School to take public input before deciding whether to approve the latest wastewater plan.

Among those objecting was Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever, a local environmental group.

Wyche said he is concerned that the Cliffs Communities will take water out of the river to irrigate the golf course because the development company no longer plans to irrigate the golf course with the wastewater.

The river's water level is already low because of a drought, "and we don't need to make it worse by taking more water out of the river, especially for a golf course," Wyche said.

He said the Cliffs Communities could buy sufficient water for golf course irrigation from Greenville Water System and pay for it by charging golfers an extra dollar or two.

Donald H. Nickell Jr., vice president of planning and engineering for the Cliffs Communities, wouldn't say whether the company intended to take water out of the river for

golf course irrigation.

He said plans to spray the wastewater on the golf course were changed to placate environmentalists and citizens concerned about runoff and the possibility of wastewater discharge into the river during a major flood.

"We felt like the better option, to allay any concerns, was to put it up in the woods," Nickell said.

Wyche, an attorney and former DHEC chairman, urged the agency to "look at the big picture" and "not get stuck in the regulatory box."

Representatives from

the Sierra Club and Save our Saluda, a citizens group formed in opposition to the Cliffs at Mountain Park, made similar objections.

Greenville County Councilman Joe Dill, who attended the hearing, said he shares the concerns about taking water out of the river.

"I don't want to take any more water out of the river," Dill said. "I've been fishing in that river ever since I was a little boy. Five or six years ago, it got so low, and it hasn't ever come back where you can ever do any good fishing."