



Cliffs Mountain Park reaches tentative deal with key environmental group

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After reaching a tentative deal with the key conservation group, Upstate Forever, developer Jim Anthony is expected to announce that he has reached an agreement with the group that would resolve environmental concerns surrounding The Cliffs at Mountain Park, a golf course development in northern Greenville County. Potentially, construction of the course could resume within 30 - 45 days.

Announced in 2006, the community's proposal was met with public outcry sparking grass roots efforts like "Save Our Saluda" to form and fight the development which is located along the North Saluda River, a picturesque trout stream which runs through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Originally, Anthony proposed to discharge the community's wastewater directly into the river. That proposal was withdrawn and a new proposition to discharge wastewater onto an adjacent hillside was submitted to and approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Concerns (DHEC). Upstate Forever and Save Our Saluda were joined by other key conservation groups like Trout Unlimited, The S.C. Wildlife Federation, The S.C. Native Plant Society and the Sierra Club, to appeal the decision to issue the permit.

Essential components of the settlement involve a revised plan for the golf course reducing its length by 400', a continuous vegetated buffer along both sides of the river and water withdrawal limits setting specifics on how much water can be withdrawn from the river to be used for irrigation. In addition, The Cliffs will allow public access to the area by building and maintaining an area for public use and will set aside at least \$250,000 per year for the next five years to protect the Saluda watershed.

DHEC and the South Carolina Administrative Court need to grant approval on the new agreement before golf course construction can resume.



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