

168 Skyline Drive
Acton, MA 01720

September 5, 2016

Peter Berry, Chair
Janet Adachi, Vice-Chair
Frances Osman, Clerk
Katie Green
Chingsung Chang
Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

Re: Public Comment and Questions for September 12, 2016 hearing on the Proposal from the Town of Concord to Expand the Water Treatment Plant (180-182 Skyline Drive)

Dear Mr. Berry, Ms Adachi, Ms. Osman, Ms. Green, and Mr. Chang,

I am writing as a homeowner at 168 Skyline Drive, Acton, MA and an abutter to the Town of Concord's Water Treatment Plant. I would first like to thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to the community's concerns at the January 2016 hearing, and conduct a follow up visit the site of the proposed solar panels. I am pleased that the Town of Concord withdrew its proposal to place solar panels next to our homes. However, I have reviewed the lengthy proposal to substantially expand the water treatment plant that was submitted in late August. I have several questions and concerns that I request you address at the September 12, 2016 hearing. There are numerous environmental concerns, however, I am limiting the issues in this letter to those of an abutter who would be directly impacted by the proposed expansion.

1. Fencing

The Town of Concord's proposal indicates that a fence will be placed immediately behind our homes, at what appears to be the same location as the fencing that was proposed for the solar panels. This appears to be about 5-20 feet from our property lines, and at least 100 yards away from the water treatment plant. The fencing would be clearly visible from our properties; there is no rationale in the proposal as to why fencing should be so close to our homes and so far from the proposed structure. The proposed fencing does not appear to completely surround the water treatment. The current fencing is chain link with three strands of barbed wire above the chain link.

Prior to approving this proposal, I respectfully request that you ask the Town of Concord to provide answers to the following questions, and go onsite to look at the site of the proposed fencing to understand the impact this would have on our homes, the community, and the wildlife in the area. **Enclosed are photos of the current fencing, and the schematic in the proposal of the fencing.**

- A. Why is the proposed fencing placement so far from the water treatment plant and so close to our homes?
- B. What type of fence would be erected?
- C. Will the fence include barbed wire?
- D. What is the height of the proposed fence?
- E. Will trees need to be cut down to install the fencing? If so, how many?
- F. How will the proposed fencing impact wildlife in the area?
- G. What would abutters see when they view the fence?

2. Noise

The current water treatment plant emits a constant medium level buzzing sound that is continuous day and night. The noise is audible from the back of our property, and of course, the noise becomes louder as one approaches the water treatment plant.

- A. What will be the noise level of the proposed expanded water treatment plant, and how far will that sound carry?
- B. Will the noise level be constant or change throughout the day and night?
- C. Will the noise be audible to abutters under the proposal once the expansion has been completed and the plant is in use? Are tests being conducted? If so, who is conducting these tests? What is the decibel and frequency level of the current sound, and what is the estimated decibel level and frequency under the proposed expansion, and how is that being determined?
- D. What impact will the noise level have on wildlife in the area?
- E. What is the source of the noise? What is the purpose of the trailers on the site? They appear to have some role in the noise.
- F. What is the expected noise level during construction? That is, what type of equipment will be brought in, what will be the hours that the equipment be in use? Will there be blasting? Rock crushing?

3. Structure and Dimensions

The structure is described within the plan. It is difficult to determine from the plan the overall expanse of the proposed expanded water treatment plant without a comparison. The proposal includes information on the depth of the plant below ground, but it is difficult to gain a perspective of the proposed plant compared to the existing structure. **Enclosed is a photo of the current plant, including the concrete pad on which the structure sits within the fenced area.**

- A. What are the dimensions of the current structure including length, height and width, and square footage?
- B. What are the dimensions of the current concrete pad and square footage?
- C. What are the dimensions of the proposed structure, including length, height and width and square footage?
- D. What are the dimensions of the proposed concrete pad, parking areas, and square footage?
- E. A comparison chart would be helpful.

4. Visibility, Appearance, and Security

The current structure sits at the end of a road that is not visible to residents of Quail Ridge. It appears as an industrial site, and there is graffiti in non-fenced areas. The current locks appear to be those that can be purchased at a hardware store. **See enclosed photos.**

- A. What is the plan to secure the proposed expanded site?
- B. What will be done to monitor the site and remove graffiti?
- C. Will the proposed structure be visible from the homes of abutters?

5. Construction Noise, Traffic, Potential Damage, and Wear and Tear

The proposed expansion would appear to take about two years, with heavy trucks and construction vehicles needing to exit and enter the site.

- A. How will Acton and Quail Ridge residents be compensated for expected wear and tear on the existing roads?
- B. How will Acton and Quail Ridge residents be compensated for possible damage to property by construction vehicles?
- C. What is the expected traffic of construction vehicles?

Thank you for your attention to these questions. The answers should be obtained before the proposal is approved. The issues are important to my neighbors and me. When we purchased this property, there was no mention of this project, and we were told that the wooded area would never be built upon. The proposed expansion of the water treatment plant certainly will transform the area and if it proceeds as planned, not only will build upon the wooded area, but will transform it. This project has the potential to impact our environment, our families and our properties. If additional information would be helpful, please contact me at 717-439-7247 or linda.rhen1@gmail.com

With Kind Regards,

Linda Rhen

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