



UNC Coastal Studies Institute

Release: Immediate

Contact: Tim Shearin, 252-475-0533

Date: November 22, 2005

FAVORABLE TEST RESULTS MEAN THAT BOWSERTOWN LANDFILL SOON TO HAVE NEW COMMUNITY USES

MANTEO- Toxicology monitoring conducted by North Carolina State University has yielded encouraging results about the site of the former Bowsertown landfill. As a result, the state, county, university and local Rotary Club partnership that commissioned the work is ready to move forward with gathering public input about the future of the site.

“This study was intended as a screening assessment of the site. While the data we provided cannot be used to definitively ‘clear’ the landfill site for improvement, given the relatively uncontaminated condition of the waters and sediment surrounding the Bowsertown landfill site, there is no apparent reason not to begin more formal proceedings to reclaim the site for other public use,” said Dr. Damian Shea, Department Head of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology at North Carolina State University (NCSU).

For the study, NCSU researchers collected water and sediment samples from eight sites surrounding the landfill. They then analyzed them for hundreds of potential contaminants of concern, including pesticides, solvents, metals, petroleum products and synthetic and industrial chemicals. Analysis found that concentrations of most chemicals are similar to those found in a relatively untouched environment.

Dare County Commissioner Virginia Tillet welcomed the news of the monitoring. “A number of local and state agencies, including the NC Division of Water Resources and NCSU’s Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, have worked hard to support the testing at the Bowsertown site and help bring people together on this project,” stated Tillet. “The results are encouraging and we are pleased that the area has the potential to become a valuable community resource. Citizens are encouraged to work with Dare County Parks and Recreation staff and others involved in the visioning process, so that the final plan reflects the ideas of the community.”

Dare County and the Manteo Rotary Club, which hatched the original idea in 2003, soon hope to convene a series of community meetings to determine the wisest use for the site. The site had been a landfill for more than twenty years when the county changed it to a transfer station. The county will be discontinuing this use of the site by the end of the year. This knowledge sparked the initial Manteo Rotary Club idea to reclaim the site as a community resource.

-MORE-

Page 2, CSI Bowsertown 2 11/21/05

UNC Coastal Studies Institute
PHONE 252 726 6827
217 Budleigh Street, P.O. Box 699, Manteo, NC 27954

Christine Miller, Public Information Officer
FAX 252 726 8475
christine.miller@csi.northcarolina.edu

“This is the product of many different groups coming together to create positive change,” declared Tim Shearin, the Manteo Rotary Club’s point person on the project. “And this would not have happened without the invaluable help of CSI, particularly CSI director Dr. Nancy White. Her leadership and resourcefulness got us started and her energy and statewide resources kept us on track. We’re thrilled with the progress so far and look forward to finishing the reclamation.”

To receive a copy of the toxicology report, please contact Marie Magee or John McCord at 252-475-3663 or via e-mail at mmagee@csi.northcarolina.edu or Jmccord@csi.northcarolina.edu.

#####

###