

# OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

---

G. Melvin Davis, Chairman

---

August 6, 2007

Mr. Lee Becker, President  
Friends of Barber Creek  
1050 Scott Terrace  
Athens, GA 30606

Dear Mr. Becker:

Thanks for your letter received July 19, 2007 regarding the potential expansion of the Rocky Branch LAS site.

As you know, the Oconee County Board of Commissioners has received approval from the Georgia EPD to upgrade the 400,000 GPD LAS site to a 1M GPD membrane filtration wastewater treatment facility. The BOC has held the following public meetings and discussion regarding this facility:

- 07/27/04 - BOC Meeting
- 08/24/04 - Public Meeting
- 11/05/04 - BOC Meeting
- 01/25/05 - BOC Meeting
- 02/22/05 - BOC Meeting
- 02/09/06 - BOC Meeting
- 03/14/06 - Public Meeting
- 08/27/06 - BOC Meeting
- 12/12/06 - Public Meeting

In reply to the three (3) specific questions, please note the following:

1. We have affirmed the "holding" facilities at the LAS site (28 mg) will be used to store treated wastewater during times of flooding. This is part of our permit request to EPD and was approved by EPD.
2. If approved by the BOC, this facility as approved by EPD, will be a membrane filtration plant and treat wastewater to reuse standards. This is the same treatment used at the Oconee County Call Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, which uses the same standards as the Hill Plant in Gwinnett County.

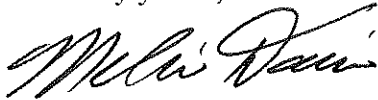
3. EPD requires continuous monitoring for various parameters and bi-weekly monitoring for other parameters. Page 6, Section B, of the EPD permit outlines all required monitoring. You may wish to review this section for additional information.

It is my belief that the BOC has attempted to get significant public input into this process. I also feel we have responded positively to the three (3) concerns outlined in your letter. Therefore, I see no need to have an additional public meeting to respond to these items. However, when a decision is made by the Board to upgrade the LAS site, a period of public comment will be allowed.

Please note the Board of Commissioners has the authority to call for additional public meetings, as they desire on this matter.

If I can answer any additional questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,



Melvin Davis

GMD/jig

Cc: Board of Commissioners  
Daniel Haygood, County Attorney  
Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer  
Chris Thomas, Director, Utilities



July 17, 2007

Mr. Melvin Davis, Chairman  
Oconee County Board of Commissioners  
Oconee County Courthouse  
23 N. Main Street  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Dear Mr. Davis:

With this letter, I am formally requesting that you schedule a public meeting at which those of us concerned about the health of Barber Creek are given a chance to discuss with the Board of Commissioners announced plans to expand the Rocky Branch sewage treatment plant and to begin discharging treated sewage water into Barber Creek.

I am making this request on behalf of the Board of Directors of Friends of Barber Creek, a citizen group created to preserve and enhance the attractiveness of Barber Creek and surrounding land in Oconee County and to protect and improve the ecological condition of the Creek.

The Board of Directors wishes to have the opportunity in a public meeting to ask the members of the Board of Commissioners, should they vote to expand the Rocky Branch sewage treatment plant and begin discharging waste water into Barber Creek, that they also:

1. Agree to hold discharge water from the Rocky Branch sewage plant in storage facilities when Barber Creek is flooding or threatening to flood, rather than discharge into the Creek;
2. Treat effluent from the Rocky Branch sewage plant to the highest level possible with the technology available and, at a minimum, to the level of treatment at the Hill Plant in Gwinnett County for water being discharged into Lake Lanier; and
3. Set up a system of independent monitoring of the Rocky Branch sewage treatment plant, its effluent, and Barber Creek.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you regarding the County's plans for an open discussion of the proposed expansion of the Rocky Branch sewage treatment plant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lee B. Becker'.

Lee B. Becker  
President

cc: Post 1 Commissioner, Jim Luke  
Post 2 Commissioner, Don Norris  
Post 3 Commissioner, Margaret Hale  
Post 4 Commissioner, Chuck Horton

Mailing Address for Friends of Barber Creek:

1050 Scott Terrace  
Athens, GA 30606 (Oconee County)

Tel. 706 548-1525

# Oconee County Observations II

Materials to Supplement Oconee County Observations

([oconeecountyobservations.blogspot.com](http://oconeecountyobservations.blogspot.com))

We have asked the Oconee County Board of Commissioners to do three things if it decides to expand the Rocky Branch Sewage Treatment Plant. Here is what we have asked:

[What we want from the Oconee County Board of Commissioners](#)

We have elaborated on each of these requests to explain why they are important and how they can be met. Here is that elaboration:

[Justification for Requests](#)

Five persons evaluated the three bids for the upgrade of Rocky Branch sewage plant.

[See how they were scored.](#)

---