

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Greenville News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Group: Petitions oppose project on Saluda River

Cliffs developer says wastewater plan has been revised

Published: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 - 2:00 am

By David Dykes
STAFF WRITER
ddykes@greenvillenews.com

MARIETTA -- A local citizen action group said Monday night that 1,800 people have signed petitions opposing governmental approval of permits for development of 5,000 acres in northern Greenville County because of concerns about the project's impact on the North Saluda River.

Dianne Anastos, acting chairwoman of the Cleveland-based group, Save Our Saluda, said an estimated 600-700 letters also are being sent to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control and other agencies to express concerns about permits that would allow the daily discharge of 175,000 gallons of treated wastewater into the river and modifications of a portion of the river for a golf course.

Developer Jim Anthony and his company, The Cliffs Communities Inc., plan the residential community -- Cliffs at Mountain Park -- and a Gary Player-designed golf course along State 11 near U.S. 25.

Anthony has revised his plan for disposing of wastewater at the project, easing some concerns about the impact on the North Saluda. He couldn't be reached for comment Monday night.

Advertisement

More than 75 people met Monday night with Republican Rep. Bob Inglis to ask sharp questions and raise doubts about the project's environmental impact. They included Lynn Huth, an area resident who pledged to stop the project even "if I have to go out and lay in the middle of Highway 11."

She said, "We need a judge, and we need somebody, that's going to do something."

Inglis, the ranking member on the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee, said he lives along the river upstream from the project and he shares residents' concerns. He said he will ensure federal and state officials are enforcing current regulations, ask county officials "to be vigilant" in their project oversight and urge The Cliffs company to live up "to the highest standards."

Earlier Monday, DHEC spokesman Adam Myrick said agency officials are still reviewing Anthony's revised plan for disposing of wastewater at the Mountain Park development.

Heather Friesen, a public affairs specialist with the Charleston District of the Army Corps of Engineers, said

her agency has received revised plans for the Cliffs at Mountain Park project "that have reduced impacts."

Those plans, she said, have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Natural Resources. Corps officials are waiting to hear back from those agencies, Friesen said.

In Anthony's new filing with regulatory agencies, he proposes treating the wastewater more thoroughly and spraying it onto the golf course and other land at Mountain Park.

Under the new plan, The Cliffs would be allowed to discharge wastewater into the river in the event of a flood or if the ground was frozen.

Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever, a Greenville-based environmental group, has said that step is "moving in the right direction."

Jeff DeBessonnet, DHEC's director of water facilities permitting, also said the new plan has "the tightest set of limits that we have set anywhere in the state."
