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# COMPLEX: Residents pledge money for injunction

Continued from Page 1

1964 Civil Rights Act Title 6 grounds of "environmental racism."

The residents' accusations of environmental racism are based on suspicions they have about the history of the complex's development, he said.

Before the decision was made to build the complex in the Brushy Creek area, University officials considered building it on A&M's Riverside Campus.

Schaffer said the residents have not received any satisfactory answers from University officials about the decision to build in Brushy Creek instead of Riverside Campus.

Dr. James M. Mazzullo, associate professor of geology and Brushy Creek resident, said in an e-mail message to Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, that the decision apparently discriminates against the African-American community in Brushy Creek.

"The homes near the Riverside campus are largely owned by white people," Mazzullo said. "The University was very considerate of them, but showed no due consideration for the black people of Brushy Creek. This makes the University appear to be racist."

In a June release, Bowen said the University will continue to take steps toward the construction of the complex.

Bids now are being accepted for the 580-acre complex. A final bid will likely be selected by the end of July, and construction will start soon after.

"I think that our community neighbors will be pleased with the fine facility that is now being planned," Bowen said.

"Over the last six months the University has had several discussions with the Brushy community, and we will continue these conversations if there are other concerns. But we must move forward now if we are to meet our commitments to students and to the statewide agricultural industry," he said.

Dr. Ed Hiler, vice chancellor

in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said the complex will be an invaluable teaching tool.

"This will help us to serve the new kind of agriculture student that we are seeing more of these days," Hiler said. "The complex will allow us to provide these students with the most comprehensive educational experience in working with technology and livestock."

However, Mazzullo said the complex's benefits to students will come at the expense of the Brushy Creek community.

He said waste-management plans to utilize storage lagoons and irrigation will not be adequate to protect water supplies because of the area's sandy, porous ground.

"They plan to hose the animal wastes into large clay- and plastic-lined lagoons on the site, and they claim that this is safe, but it is not true," Mazzullo said. "Such lined lagoons are notorious for the fact that they leak like sieves. The clay cracks when it is dry, and the liners rip from the weight of the clay and water and from human activity."

Mazzullo said heavy rainfall would increase the chances of the lagoons overflowing, causing water contaminated with animal waste to infiltrate into the ground.

"Furthermore, there are no regional aquicludes (clay soils) to prevent surface water from infiltrating to the depths at which many of us begin to draw water," Mazzullo said. "There would simply be nothing to stop waste from entering our aquifer in the case of an overflow. It would contaminate the aquifer directly below our community, it would spread south in a plume to the River Road area, and it would eventually leak into the Brazos River."

Burges Stengl, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission geologist, evaluated in January 1994 the complex's wastewater-treatment permit application.

Stengl expressed hesitation about the safety of the project

and asked for a complete geotechnical report of the area.

"It is concluded that the site presents a hazard to ground water," Stengl said. "Because 11 out of 34 borings (holes) encountered ground water at depths of 2 to 18 feet below ground level, and the existing pens at the Beef Center are lined with sand and gravel, ground water contamination may have already occurred."

Schaffer said he asked to see the August 1991 Buchanan Geotechnical Report mentioned in University documents, but was not provided the information.

Dr. John Beverly, associate vice chancellor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said he will release the Buchanan report to Brushy Creek residents immediately. He said that although he has not had a chance to look at the Buchanan report himself, A&M engineers have studied it.

Beverly said he has no scientific evidence that the environment of Brushy Creek already has been damaged by cattle or that it is likely to be damaged by the addition of more animals.

"Their experts disagree with our experts," he said.

A water-quality management plan has been developed between University officials and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to monitor the impact of the complex on water sources, Beverly said.

Development of the monitoring program was a voluntary initiative of University officials, he said. Because the complex will have less than 2,500 animals, it is not under regulations.

He said the monitoring system will detect all daily and weekly changes in the soil and water. Odor sensors will be in-

stalled, and as a further precaution, arsenic will not be used in animal feed.

"If we have any problem, we can cease operations immediately," Beverly said. "I'm totally confident that the concentration of animals will not be a problem."

"If we became a nuisance to the community, we will stop," he said. "We have no problem making that commitment to the community."

The Rev. Thomas Williams of Clayton Baptist Church, one of four churches located in Brushy Creek, is not satisfied with University officials' assurances.

"I remember going out to the swine facility at Prairie View A&M, and it was bad," Rev. Thomas Williams said. "But the goat center was terrible. The smell is just unbearable. It's not a place I want to have in my community."

Etta Ruth Williams, a Brushy

**"The complex will allow us to provide these students with the most comprehensive educational experience in working with technology and livestock."**

- Dr. Ed Hiler, vice chancellor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Creek resident, said the lowering of cattle and other animals sounds will be a nuisance.

"You grow old with the intent that you are going rest," Etta Ruth Williams said. "How are we going to rest?"

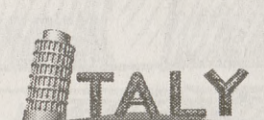
Brushy Creek residents said they are serious about trying to stop any problems before they occur.

The Rev. Cedric Rousey of Pool Chapel in Madisonville grew up in the Brushy Creek area. He said the residents have reached a critical stage in their protest, and now is the time to take action.

"If they put one board over there, it's as good as the whole complex being done," he said.

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