

Testimony of Jennifer Drake before the North Carolina Utility Commission

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I reside in Briar Chapel and have been a resident since July 2016. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors and have been a volunteer to the HOA in several capacities since the summer of 2016.

I am here today to offer my testimony for consideration as I am opposed to the requested transfer of the Briar Chapel waste water treatment system from Old North State Water Company to ONSWC-Chatham North.

In my daily life I walk dogs all over Briar Chapel and I have witnessed and reported the consistent and ongoing oversaturation of the many spray field areas. This is in direct violation of the DEQ operating permit that prohibits spraying reclaimed water onto already saturated soils as they cannot absorb the nutrients and other contaminants. This is of great concern to me. The green spaces set aside in our compact community are rendered unusable for weeks at a time; a very clear nuisance. One area in constant state of oversaturation is directly across the road from Pollard Middle School where children from Chatham County and not just Briar Chapel are unable to play.

Additionally, I observed the large expanse of green space called Great Meadow become oversaturated so much so that the entire segment of the park was required to have the sod replaced because it essentially drowned. This was very costly to the HOA and the space was unusable for a better portion the year due to dead grass and the new sod work. After reporting these incidents, I was informed by our management company that this was caused by the actions of the Old North State facility operating in Briar Chapel whose responsibility is to regulate the irrigation.

Other locations being oversaturated are Boulder Park and Briar Commons to the point where algae are in the curb gutters. These areas are designed for play and activity and are not being utilized as intended due to the constant over irrigation.

It is my hope that the Old North State facility can correct these obvious violations of the DEQ permit, cause no further financial burden to Briar Chapel, and finally demonstrate that they can become a responsible, compliant, and responsive operator who also resides in our beautiful community. Until then, I am strongly opposed to any transfer and certainly no expansion.

Thank you for your consideration