RESOLUTION LIMITING NEW CONSTRUCTION ON FORMER QUARRY SITE NORTHWEST OF COWGILL HALL

Virginia Tech entered into a Consent Order agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, agreeing to perform work identified in the Consent Order, associated with waste management units and suspected environmental conditions previously identified by EPA at the main campus of Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech has corrected and resolved 29 issues and areas of concern identified in the Consent Order; however, two issues remain, one of which relates to groundwater near Cowgill Hall.

Recent evaluations have demonstrated that groundwater under the Cowgill site is contaminated. Although the contamination source is ubiquitous, non-determinant, and it is not at the highest risk level, the EPA would like a covenant from the university stating that future development of the area will not include residential housing or the use of groundwater. The Board will consider a resolution restricting new construction to non-residential buildings and ground water withdrawal from the former quarry site that is located along Perry Street, northwest of Cowgill Hall.

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WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is committed to the health and safety of all members of the campus community and to the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has requested that Virginia Tech limit future development of the site to prevent residential construction and ground water use from the site; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2006-2016 Campus Master Plan already reserves the area northwest of Cowgill, formerly used as a quarry site along Perry Street, for academic and non-residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the water supply for the buildings in the area is from a municipal source not obtained from ground water; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has consented to allow a resolution from the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to stand as a guarantee against residential construction on the site and ground water withdrawal from the site;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that construction on the land located between the current Derring Hall and Perry Street, bounded by West Campus Drive and the access road to Hancock Hall, will be limited to non-residential buildings. Furthermore, no ground water withdrawal for use shall occur from this site.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution restricting new construction to non-residential buildings and ground water withdrawal from the site described be approved.

September 10, 2012

