

## Petition Regarding Coal Ash Deposits

### PETITION 1

Council should task staff and the Environmental Impact Citizen Committee to establish a relationship with the UNC School of Public Health, who can provide toxicology and public safety expertise with respect to the potential health concerns of coal ash exposure. The relationship should be established such that Council can call upon experts to provide relevant information as they consider these types of issues.

#### Justification:

1. It is clear that based on the meeting on Friday, 2 November 2018, that Council needs to have access to general toxicology expertise to assist you as you consider the coal ash issue.
2. The School of Public Health at UNC is world class and they have the expertise that Town ~~Council can rely on without question.~~
3. Town Council is always looking for areas to strengthen the bond between Town and Gown. This relationship would partially fulfill that mission.

### PETITION 2

Council's first request from the School of Public Health expert should be to present a lecture to Council that addresses the differences between voluntary and known exposure to risk vs unknown and involuntary exposure, and how these impact risk assessment and risk vs. benefits as it specifically applies to the responsibility of elected officials at the national, state, and local levels of government.

#### Justification:

Council needs to understand the difference when a citizen chooses to assume a risk as opposed to when there are serious risks that are unknown to citizens. Examples of known risk are driving a car or having an x-ray. We all know the risks of driving and use our seat belts. We assume the risk of exposure to x-rays for the benefit of being able to diagnosis a medical condition.

An example of unknown risk are the elevated lead levels in the Detroit water system that has had a significant impact on its citizens. Citizens had no control over their decision to drink water with lead levels higher than allowed by Federal and State regulations. They were unable to make their own decision whether or not to drink the tap water because the local government did not test or make the public aware of the problem.

There are ways to lower unknown risk. Federal and State governments regulate exposure to pesticide levels in food (EPA) and test for chemicals. FDA reviews clinical trial data to determine the risk:benefit ratio of new drugs before they are cleared to come to market. A perfect analogy of turning an unknown risk into a known risk is our current situation where OWASA has advised citizens about the potential presence of bacteria in our drinking water and recommended boiling it during the recent water main break.

Council needs to gather the information regarding the present coal ash deposits at the Police Station so it can inform citizens of the known risks and decide whether they accept the risk. A relationship with the UNC School of Public Health will facilitate getting this information and allow Town Government decide the best way to lower the currently unknown risks.

Respectfully submitted,  
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