

Rougemont, NC Citizens Celebrate New Water Supply System, Ending 20 Years Of Temporary Water Due To Petroleum Contamination

On September 22, 2016, approximately 70 citizens, government representatives, and press attended a dedication and water tasting ceremony for the new water supply system for the community of Rougemont, NC. Durham County elected officials, as well as representatives from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 attended the event, which took place at the Rougemont United Methodist Church.



Water tasting glasses

As a result of this \$2.6 million water system project, 40 homes and small businesses in Rougemont are now connected to safe drinking water. Construction for the system began in October 2015 and was paid for by a combination of federal, state, and county money and grants. Durham County designed the system and committed to operate and manage the system in the future. This unique water system won the *Water and Waste Digest* 2016 Top Projects Award.



Intersection of Highway 501 and Red Mountain Road in Rougemont

Background

Located in the northern part of Durham County, NC, the Rougemont area has been plagued by multiple historical petroleum releases from underground storage tanks (USTs); the area was not served by a public water system. Remediating petroleum contamination there is nearly impossible due to the presence of fractured bedrock.

practical solution was to install a well field and establish a new community water system.

Multiple sources provided money for the project, which broke ground in October 2015: \$125,000 of federal leaking UST cleanup special projects money; \$600,000 from an NCDOC Community Development Block Grant; \$645,000 of NCDEQ UST Commercial Fund money; and \$1.3 million from Durham County.



Historic gas station buildings in Rougemont

For more than 20 years, NCDEQ monitored private wells quarterly and supplied many residences with an alternate water source as a temporary solution. Concerned Rougemont citizens remained involved and motivated to find a permanent solution to their community's drinking water problems.

In 2009, NCDEQ used \$255,693, which was a portion of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Leaking UST money for cleanup projects, to perform feasibility studies investigating a permanent supply solution for Rougemont. Ultimately, the most



Durham County Public Works Director gave state and federal representatives as well as local press a tour of the new water system location and building