

## **PenderWatch Opposes Titan Cement Plant and Quarry**

The board of directors for PenderWatch & Conservancy voted unanimously to oppose the construction of a quarry and cement kiln operation on the banks of the NE Cape Fear River, joining eight regional and state groups.

Although the plant and mine would be located in New Hanover County, said a spokesperson, effects would be felt throughout the region.

The group's research showed that cement plants are among the worst industrial air polluters, emitting significant volumes of carbon dioxide, mercury and other pollutants detrimental to the health of residents and unborn children.

The deep wells would deplete the high quality Castle Hayne Aquifer which supplies drinking water to much of eastern North Carolina following a period of serious drought. Such water extraction runs the risk of causing salt water intrusion into the aquifer.

Creation of the open pit mine requires destruction of nearly 500 acres of wetlands on the banks of the Northeast Cape Fear River. A component of the Cape Fear system, the wetlands help provide vast resources, from drinking water for the City of Wilmington to fresh water for oyster beds downriver, and habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species.

PenderWatch called the type of industry "highly inappropriate" for recruitment into a region which thrives on tourism, a healthy climate, and clean waters.

The proposed quarry site may eventually extend into Pender County, said the group, to supply the Titan kiln. Even a fully compliant plant would introduce an unacceptable level of pollution into the air and water.

PenderWatch led an objection to a limestone quarry proposed for the Browntown area of eastern Pender County in 1993. The Pender County Commissioners denied the application in large measure due to analysis by PenderWatch on damage to the Castle Hayne Aquifer.

*For further information on PenderWatch or to become a member, call 270-3839, or sign up for PenderWatch e-notification by e-mailing [vufinder@charter.net](mailto:vufinder@charter.net).*