Project Overview

On June 21, 2017, RDA, LLC (RDA) submitted a permit application to DHEC’s Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM) to dry-mine limestone at a 968-acre site located off of Seaboard Road in Williamsburg County, approximately five miles northwest of Andrews, SC. The proposed mine includes mine segments, buffers & berms around the site perimeter, processing & stockpile areas, a sediment retention & water storage basin, and a process water outfall. Proposed operations include blasting, crushing, and further processing of stone.

Mine Permitting Process

A Mine Operating Permit for RDA, LLC would require:

- Installation of monitoring wells and other measures and contingencies to prevent impacts to the following: private wells, ponds, wetlands, Murray Swamp, and sinkhole development.
- A reclamation plan and bond.
- Surveys of homes, private wells, and other structures within ½ mile of the proposed pit boundary. The surveys provide DHEC with valuable baseline data for future comparison, if needed.
- Additional measures to ensure the mining operations comply with regulatory requirements.

Many concerns about the proposed mine have been expressed by local residents, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and other organizations. These issues include blasting impacts, potential for sink-holes caused by mine dewatering, and the potential for impacts to private wells, ponds, wetlands and Murray Swamp. DHEC recognizes the importance of these issues to the local community and is evaluating these concerns utilizing sound science and technical expertise. DHEC has requested additional information from RDA to address these issues. RDA has responded by submitting a Sinkhole Monitoring and Contingency Plan and a Murray Swamp Flow Analysis to DHEC for review. Additional requested information is forthcoming.

Next Steps

If all outstanding issues are satisfactorily addressed by the applicant, DHEC will complete its technical review and prepare a draft permit. The draft permit will then be placed on public notice and a public hearing will be scheduled. DHEC will provide a 30-day advance notice of the public hearing and the end-of-comment period. DHEC will review and consider the technical merits of all comments received prior to making a final decision.

DHEC understands that there are many questions regarding this proposed quarry. We encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact us and stay engaged throughout our permitting process.