

**South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**  
**Bureau of Air Quality**  
**Response to Comments**  
**Public Notice #22-087-TV-C**  
**Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (1460-0070-CD)**

The following is the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Bureau of Air Quality (Department) response to the comment made during the formal comment period held November 17, 2022 through December 16, 2022 regarding the draft Haile Gold Mine, Inc. (Haile) synthetic minor air quality construction permit. A written comment was received during the comment period for the draft air quality permit. The written comment received regarding the draft permit is available for viewing at the SC DHEC Columbia office located at 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, or on the SC DHEC webpage <http://www.scdhec.gov/Environment/AirQuality/PermittingDecisions/> or hardcopies can be requested by contacting our Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3817.

**Comment:** Emissions generated by this facility as a result of the proposed project will include:

- Particulate Matter (PM);
- Particulate Matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10);
- Particulate Matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM2.5);
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>);
- Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>);
- Carbon Monoxide (CO);
- Lead (Pb);
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); and
- Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs).

This is unacceptable. Please deny this permit request.

**Department Response:** Federal and state air quality regulations are established to be protective of public health, using scientific data and human health risk exposure assessments. These regulations include standards for ambient air quality and emission limits, controls, and operational requirements for industrial facilities.

In accordance with South Carolina air quality regulations, "no permit to construct or modify a source will be issued if emissions interfere with attainment or maintenance of any state or federal standard." Haile's emissions were evaluated using air

dispersion modeling to determine if they would interfere with any federal or state ambient air quality standard, and the evaluation showed that if operated in accordance with the permit terms and conditions, no violation of a federal or state standard should occur. In addition to ambient air quality standards, Haile is subject to a variety of regulatory requirements, including but not limited to, New Source Performance Standards, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, fugitive dust control requirements, and other operational, testing, monitoring, and recordkeeping requirements designed to limit emissions of pollutants associated with the permitted project.

Air permit decisions are based on the applicable air quality regulations and standards in place at the time of the Department's technical review of the permit application. Based on a rigorous review of the application in conjunction with those requirements applicable to Haile, the applicant has met the requirements for issuance of a permit.

For further detail on pollutants and emissions associated with this project (including, for some pollutants, anticipated reductions in controlled emissions), please see the Statement of Basis for the issued permit.