South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
State of South Carolina
County of Fairfield

In Re: Proposed Fairfield Quarry - Mine Operating Permit Application 1-002297

Date: August 5, 2021
Time: 6:31 p.m.
Location: Geiger Elementary School, 150 TM Cook Lane, Ridgeway, South Carolina

Received
AUG 25 2021
SC DHEC Bureau of Land & Waste Management

Reported by
Cindy H. Patterson
APPEARANCES

DHEC officials present:  
  Donna Moye
  Kristy Ellenberg
  Barbara Evans
  Katherine Yon
  Jeremy Eddy
  Lance Davis

Speakers from the public:  
  Rep. Annie McDaniel
  Morris Lyles
  Lynn Crane
  Lauren Megill Milton
  Susan Randall
  Pelam Lyles
  Brandon Jones
  Virginia Pierce
  John Lyles
  Robert Seibels
  James Kilgo
  Eleanor Thomas Parrish
  Cal Harrison
  Josephine Lyles
  Pamela Greenlaw
  Eben Stevenson
  Priscilla Preston
  Ben Thompson
  Kristi Coggins
  Chris Cole
  Mike Zeno
  Harriet Brown
  Dan Stevenson
  Willie Qualls
  David Lewis
  Robert White

(Via GoToMeeting)
PROCEDINGS

MS. MOYE: Hello and welcome. The time is now 6:31 p.m.
on Thursday, August 5, 2021, and this public
hearing will now begin. My name is Donna Moye, and
I will serve as the hearing officer tonight.

Please note that this hearing is being
recorded. This virtual public hearing is being
held by the South Carolina Department of Health and
Environmental Control, hereafter referred to as
DHEC. The purpose of this hearing is to accept
comments and supporting information on the mine
operating permit application and draft air permit
for the proposed Fairfield Quarry. Luck Stone
Corporation has submitted applications to DHEC to
construct and operate this granite mine at a site
located in the vicinity of the intersection of SC
Highway 34 and Simpson Circle in Fairfield County,
approximately 3.5 miles west of Ridgeway, South
Carolina.

Some have chosen to attend this hearing in
person at the Geiger Elementary School in Ridgeway.
My colleague Kristy Ellenberg will be assisting
from this remote location. I'll ask her to
introduce herself now. Kristy?

MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you, Donna. I'm sorry. I was
helping with registration. So it's a pleasure to be here tonight. I'm Kristy Ellenberg.

MS. MOYE: I think I might've caught her just a little off guard, but that's okay. Thank you, Kristy.

We also have behind-the-scenes virtual assistance from a member of our tech team tonight.

I'll ask Katherine to introduce herself now.

MS. YON: Good evening, everyone. This is Katherine Yon.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Katherine. This virtual aspect does sometimes have its own unique challenges, as many of you are aware if you attended our public meeting. We certainly do appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through any technical issues that may arise.

Providing safe and effective opportunities for public involvement in the permitting process has remained a top priority for DHEC throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of DHEC, it is a pleasure to be with you tonight, and we thank you for taking the time to join us.

We will be doing a few things for our remote participants to help prevent distractions and ensure that everyone is heard at the appropriate time. All cameras have been turned off, and all
lines have been muted to minimize background noise and echoing during the presentation. After the presentation, we will unmute lines and share further instructions so that all who would like to comment tonight are able to do so.

The permitting process at DHEC begins when an application is received for one or more environmental permits. During the permitting process, an applicant must show that the proposed operation can comply with state and federal regulations. These regulations were developed to ensure that human health and the environment are protected. In addition to reviewing the applications, DHEC's role is to write and, if issued, enforce permits that meet the requirements of the regulations.

You also have a role in DHEC's permitting process. Your comments are important to us and may provide DHEC staff with additional things to consider when making final decisions regarding the proposed quarry. Final decisions have not yet been made and will not be made here tonight. The purpose of this hearing is for you to provide comments before final decisions are made. Comments made tonight are being recorded and will be
included in a written transcript prepared by a
certified court reporter. DHEC welcomes and
evaluates all comments made tonight, as well as
those submitted in writing, through the end of the
public comment period on Friday, August 20, 2021.

DHEC has created a web page for convenient
access to information about the proposed quarry.
The web page address, once again, is
scdhec.gov/luckstonefairfield. A recording of this
public hearing will be posted on the web page prior
to the end of the public comment period. If you
have not already done so, I encourage each of you
to go to DHEC's web page and complete the
registration form for this hearing. This will let
us know how to notify you of the final decisions
regarding the proposed quarry.

We will now move on to our agenda and the
order in which we will proceed for this hearing.
An overview of the proposed quarry and DHEC's mine
permitting process will be provided by Jeremy Eddy.
Following Jeremy's presentation, an overview of the
draft air permit and DHEC's air permitting process
will be provided by Lance Davis. Following these
presentations, I will begin the public comment
portion by calling on those of you who indicated
during pre-registration that you would like to make a comment. If you have decided that you no longer wish to speak when you are called on, you may decline at that time. I will alternate between those of you who are joining online, those of you who are joining in person, and those of you joining by phone.

Once we have finished hearing from all pre-registered speakers, those who did not pre-register to speak will be given an opportunity to make their comments. At that time, I will give instructions on how to indicate that you would like to make a comment. After all comments have been heard, I will make closing remarks, and this public hearing will be adjourned.

In order for everyone to have a fair and equal opportunity to participate tonight and to ensure that we proceed in a timely and effective manner, the following four guidelines have been established: First, there will be no questions or answers during or after a presentation or comment. Second, your comment should not go over three minutes each. At the end of your allotted time, you will hear this sound -- and Katherine will demonstrate that now.
I will -- thank you, Katherine. I will interrupt to remind you if you do not conclude your comments at that time. If you are not able to complete your comments within the allotted time, you may still submit them in writing before the end of the public comment period. Please keep in mind that final decisions are not made based on a vote or how many people say the same thing.

Third, please be respectful towards all who are presenting information or making comments here tonight. You each have a unique and valued perspective. No one comment is considered more important than another.

And fourth, please do not interrupt or ask other participants to respond during your comments. Comments or actions that distract from the purpose of this hearing will not be allowed.

I will now call on Jeremy Eddy to begin the DHBC presentation. Jeremy?

MR. EDDY: Thank you, Donna. Can you hear me?

MS. MOYE: I can hear you.

MR. EDDY: Okay. Great. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for showing an interest in our mine permitting process. Tonight, I'd like to go over our process with you, what we have already
accomplished, where we currently are, and what we
expect for the future, and then speak of the
details of the mining application and the proposed
reclamation plan.

On March 16, 2021, DHEC received an
application from Luck Stone Corporation for the
proposed Fairfield I-77 Quarry. At that time, we
began our administrative review to make sure that
we had all relevant information for our initial
public notice.

On April 15, 2021, DHEC published the initial
public notice by running an ad in "The Voice of
Fairfield County" newspaper and mailing out memos
to the adjacent landowners and those that owned
land within a half-mile of the proposed blasting.

Additionally, we sent the application package
out to other federal, state, and local agencies for
their comments. At this time, we began our
technical review of the application package. On
July 22, 2021, DHEC held a public meeting to
provide information about the application package,
which was followed by a question and answer period.

Tonight, on August 5, 2021, DHEC is holding an
official public hearing. In addition to the oral
comments that we will receive tonight, all
subsequent written comments may be delivered to DHEC via mail or e-mail. Contact information will be provided in another slide.

We ask that those comments be received by us no later than August 20, 2021, for consideration in our permitting process. Our technical review will continue to ensure that we address as many comments and concerns that the South Carolina Mining Act and Regulations will allow.

At a time to be determined, if a reason to deny the application has not been discovered, DHEC will make a permitting decision. If the permit is approved, we will include a summary response to comments, which will address the comments and concerns that we received throughout the permitting process. This will also begin the 15-day appeal period, and information on how to appeal the decision will be included. If the permit is denied, a letter of denial and reasons for such will be sent to the applicant, and they will also have an opportunity to appeal our decision.

The permit boundary contains three tracts of land currently under a purchase agreement with Luck Stone Corporation. This area is currently undeveloped and totals 416.8 acres. Interstate 77
is to the east. I-77 will be the primary avenue of transportation for any non-local haul truck deliveries, and is accessed via Highway 34, approximately one mile from the proposed access road. An alternate mode of transportation being considered is the Norfolk Southern Rail, which should alleviate deliveries via roadway.

The town of Winnsboro is approximately 5 miles as the crow flies in the northwest direction.

Likewise, the town of Ridgeway is approximately 3 miles to the east of this site.

Approximately 75 acres of this site have been categorized as "Buffer." Buffer is defined as land that will not be disturbed beyond the pre-mine natural state. This includes a minimum 50-foot perimeter buffer around the entire permit boundary acting as a visual screen, and minimum 75-foot buffers from any stream channels or wetlands near the affected area. Again, this is area that will remain untouched by mining activities.

Approximately 78 acres is categorized as "Future Reserves" and is denoted by the yellow overlay. Future Reserves are defined as areas that may be affected in the future, but would first require a modification to the permit, including
detailed mine and reclamation plans that must be approved by DHBC before any mining activities could commence in these areas. Additional financial assurance for reclamation must also be received by DHBC prior to any mining activities in future reserves. The applicant has indicated that these areas may become overburdened storage areas or leased as sites of future commercial development, but only if the need arises. Again, detailed plans are required to be approved by DHBC before any disturbance in these areas.

Last, but not least, approximately 260 acres of this site have been categorized as "Affected Area." Affected Area is defined as area of land from which overburden or minerals have been removed, or upon which overburden material has been deposited, or stockpiles and settling ponds associated with mining activities. It has been proposed that two areas will be used as overburden storage shown in green. The pit, shaded in teal, will be excavated in three phases, with the first phase at the northernmost area, and then slowly expanded southwards, into Phase 2 and Phase 3. The initial plant area is proposed to be situated in the Pit 3 phase area outlined in orange. When the
pit expands into Phase 3, the plant will be
relocated to the south, shown by a purple outline,
which also holds the office, scale house, and
maintenance areas.

The proposed mining process will require the
installation of "Best Management Practices," or
BMPs. These will allow the operator to prevent or
minimize off-site impacts. BMPs cover a wide array
of activities and include, but are not limited to:
the installation of silt fencing, brush barriers or
check dams to control sediment transport; retaining
or enhancing vegetation and the use of water trucks
or dust suppressants to minimize dust generation;
and the installation of stormwater basins to better
manage the site's water balance.

The operator is required to perform
reclamation activities concurrently with mining, as
feasible. When the mine reaches its end of life,
the operator is required to perform final
reclamation activities. Reclamation is the process
to restore the affected land to a useful purpose
while protecting the natural resources of the
surrounding area. The applicant has indicated in
their reclamation plan that the site will be
reclaimed as a pond or a lake and grasslands. The
land will be sloped on a 3 horizontal to 1 vertical
gradient as soon as feasible, and stockpiled
topsoil will be spread out on the top and sides.
This will be used to revegetate these areas. The
pond or lake shall also meet our minimum
reclamation standards detailed in Regulation 89-
330.

Financial assurance from the operator is
required to ensure that reclamation will be
completed. This is a financial mechanism, such as
a surety bond or letter of credit, that will cover
the cost of reclamation should the operator not
meet reclamation standards. In this hypothetical
scenario, this financial mechanism will be
forfeited, and DHEC will use the money to complete
reclamation activities.

To reiterate our next steps, DHEC's comment
period will be open until August 20, 2021, to
accept written comments, and we will consider these
comments in order to continue our technical review
of this permit application. At the conclusion of
that technical review, when all comments have been
considered, DHEC will make a final permitting
decision and provide notification and a summary
response to comments to everyone on our mailing
list. Whether the application is approved or
denied, this decision will begin a 15-day appeal
period, and instructions on how to appeal our
decision will be included. Again, thank you for
your time tonight, and I look forward to hearing
your comments.

Next, we have Lance Davis from the Bureau of
Air Quality to speak about the air synthetic
construction permit. Lance?

MR. DAVIS: Good evening. My name is Lance Davis, and I
work with the Bureau of Air Quality at the South
Carolina Department of Health and Environmental
Control. I am the air permit writer assigned to
the Luck Stone Fairfield project, and I will be
giving an overview of the draft air construction
permit.

An air construction permit allows a facility
to construct and start operation of the proposed
equipment detailed in the air permit application.
The proposed facility is required to obtain an air
permit primarily due to the amount of particulate
matter, or PM, emitted, including fine particulate
matter less than 10 and 2.5 microns, known
respectively as PM10 and PM2.5. Particulate
matter, or dust in this case, may be a mixture of
solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air.

Luck Stone submitted an air construction permit application on April 14, 2021, for a new granite quarry and processing plant. The quarry and processing plant include crushers, screeners, and conveyors. In addition to the process equipment, dust will be generated by unpaved roads and storage piles.

Luck Stone has applied to receive a "Synthetic Minor" construction permit requiring their emissions to stay below major source thresholds for PM and PM10. To remain below major source thresholds as defined by the EPA, the facility is requesting federally enforceable limits of less than 100-ton per year of PM10, and less than 250-ton per year of PM.

State and federal regulations have established standards that are protective of the environment and public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. The draft -- the draft air construction permit includes all relevant state and federal air regulations.

The proposed facility would have particulate
matter and opacity limits. Opacity is the amount of visible particulate you can see. The lower the opacity, the lower the visibility of particulate matter.

The facility-wide opacity limit for the proposed location would be 20 percent. The opacity limit for the crushers is 12 percent and 7 percent for the screens and conveyors. The facility would be required to perform initial performance tests on the processing equipment to demonstrate compliance with these opacity limits.

As part -- as part of the air permitting process, the facility is also required to demonstrate compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM10 and PM2.5. The compliance demonstration with the standards was completed using an EPA-approved model assuming the facility was operating all of its equipment at full capacity, 24 hours per day, every day of the year. Based on the compliance demonstration conducted for Luck Stone, the facility meets the standards.

The draft air construction permit also requires that the facility minimize and control its fugitive dust emissions. The facility must develop, submit, and receive Department approval of
their dust control suppression plan. The primary
proposed method of dust control is wet suppression.
The proposed process equipment would be equipped
with wet suppression in the form of water sprays to
control dust, while the dust from the roads and
storage piles would be controlled by wet
suppression in the form of water trucks.

The draft air permit and statement of basis is
available to review on the Luck Stone-Fairfield I-
77 project web page. Any questions or comments on
the draft air permit or statement of basis will be
accepted until August 20, 2021. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Jeremy and Lance. As we
transition into the comment portion of this public
hearing, I would like to reiterate that DHEC staff
are here to listen to your comments about the
proposed quarry. Answers or responses to questions
will not be provided tonight. All comments made
during this hearing are being recorded, and if you
are unable to complete your comments within the
allotted time, you may submit them in writing
through the end of the public comment period once
again on Friday, August 20, 2021.

I will now begin calling on those of you who
indicated during pre-registration that you would
like to make a comment. I will alternate between those of you who are joining online, those of you who are joining in person at Geiger Elementary School, and those of you who are joining by phone. For those of you joining in person, Kristy will assist with getting you to the microphone when it is your turn to speak.

After I call your name, you may begin your comments. Please state and spell your name for the court reporter prior to speaking.

And we will begin with Representative Annie McDaniel, who I believe is in person there at the school. We will give Representative McDaniel a moment to get to the microphone.

REPRESENTATIVE MCDANIEL: First, let me say good evening to everyone. I didn't expect to be the first one to speak since I came in kind of late, but the Bible say, "Always be ready," so I'm ready. The time limit's three minutes, right?

MS. ELENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

REPRESENTATIVE MCDANIEL: Okay. I just want to first let the persons here who are really interested in hearing and knowing what's going on with the mine coming to our county -- that it is greatly appreciated that you are stepping up, because
oftentimes, we don't let our voices be heard until
after things happen, and it's so much harder to
change anything that's put in place prior to. And
I've been working very diligently with DHEC because
I am very concerned, just -- not just about this
mine, but any industry that comes into our county
that could disrupt our environment, that could
disrupt our individuals' properties, our
communities, and that could leave lifelong damage.
So I'm here mostly to let you know that I am -- I
do care and that I am concerned and that I am
working with you with DHEC.

And we've noted a number of things that need
to happen in the future that did not happen as far
as notification and some of the other things that
needed to occur before this came to our community.

But I just want to be on record that I am
requesting that color copies of this presentation
be available to anybody who wants color copies, so
when you review it, if you need the visual, you're
able to look at the greenery and the other
different pictorial items with -- without
struggling, trying to look at it black-and-white;
that the number of years that the permit is being
requested for is reduced; that in the future when
1 we have mines or any other public hearings, that we
2 allow citizens to hear from whoever is moving in,
3 and in this case, Luck Stone; and that the citizens
4 have a time to absorb and digest all of the
5 information here, all of the questions, and then
6 have the public hearing. Because I was of the
7 understanding that this was going to be just a
8 public hearing, and all the other information had
9 already been provided, but once getting here --
10 arriving here, that was not the case.
11 I'm sure you're aware of Chester having a
12 similar situation with the mine going there, and I
13 have expressed a concern, because I also represent
14 part of Chester with that process. And the ball
15 being dropped at that particular one is -- is
16 asking to be located near a school. So we're
17 working on trying to get something in place where
18 that is not a future problem.
19 But what concerned me when I had the meeting
20 this morning is a lot of what we talked about was
21 futuristic and not the here and now. So I do look
22 forward to hearing what you all have to say, who've
23 taken the time out of your schedules to come out,
24 so that I can further do what I can in my
25 respective position to work for you in your favor.
And with that, again, I thank you all, and I'm elated that you came out to express yourselves.

Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Representative McDaniel.

We certainly do appreciate you being with us tonight.

Next, I will call on Kevin McKinney, who I believe is joining us virtually. Mr. McKinney, you can unmute your mic to begin speaking. Kevin McKinney?

(No response.)

MS. MOYE: If you're having trouble joining us, Mr. McKinney, I will remind you that you can also call in by phone. That number has been provided to you in the e-mail that was sent earlier this week. So we are going to move on right now because we have a lot of people who are interested in speaking tonight, but we will come back to you.

Now I'll call on Grenville Seibels, who I believe is there in person, Kristy?

MR. SEIBELS: Yeah. I'll decline to speak.

MS. ELLENBERG: (To Mr. Seibels) I'm sorry?

MR. SEIBELS: I -- I'll decline.

MS. ELLENBERG: Decline? You're declining?

Donna -- Donna, Mr. Seibels says he's going to
decline his opportunity to speak. Thank you, though.

MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you so much. Please let the record reflect that Mr. Grenville Seibels does not wish to comment at this time.

Next, I will call on Morris Lyles.

MR. LYLES: Good evening. My name is Morris Lyles, and my father, my brothers, and I are co-owners of the property that crosses Highway 34 and is adjacent to the project that Luck Stone is proposing on Highway 34. Our property's in the name of Lyles Brothers, LLC.

I'm speaking tonight to go on the record again in our --

(Dog barking.)

MR. LYLES: -- in our opposition to this project, and also to go on the record that no one has adequately answered our question as to what happens should the mine start to impact drinking water -- my father's well is about 1600 feet from the mine pit; what happens should the water level drop in our ponds that are on our property, one that's right below his home, and then the pond level on my uncle's property, which is right to the north of -- of the Luck Stone property. I think it's fair enough that
we have a conversation with someone that can answer more than they will bring water in or, "We'll dig a new well."

In my experience as a real estate broker, you can't just snap your fingers and dig a new well, nor can you run a water line very quickly, nor can you shower very easily using bottled water. DHEC, I'm looking to you -- to both you as the permit giver for this 100-year project for answers, as well as Luck Stone as the operator that intends to operate this mine.

I would also like to go on the record as stating my -- my niece, who has suffered from asthma -- we've got concerns concerning the -- the particulates in the air, the increased level of that, and her ability to enjoy the land and -- and use and enjoy the land.

I also have concerns with the height of the runoff barriers that are intended to protect Dutchman's Creek. And those that were here in 2015 remember: We got about 20 inches of rain in a 48-hour period. What assurances can be given that the dams will hold and don't burst and flood the creek and our property and Dutchman's Creek?

My last concern is: How is this project going
to impact the value of our property? For the next
hundred years, we'll have a neighbor that nobody
really wants to be next to. And, overall, how will
this in fact our -- impact our timber farm
operations on our property moving forward? So we'd
love to get some answers for that. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Go, Morris.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Lyles. And thank you
to our four-legged friend who is joining us
tonight, wherever it may be.

Next, I would like to call on Lynn Crane.

Lynn Crane?

MS. ELLENBERG: Ms. Crane is also here, Donna.

MS. CRANE: I'm Lynn Crane, and I live on Barber Road.

I had signed up to speak, and I wasn't -- decided I
wasn't going to, until Annie McDaniel said
something that kind of threw me, here. She was
talking about receiving information in the mail
about this project. The way I heard about this
project -- and I live on Barber Road and own almost
800 acres of land, so I know that my name is on
some tax records that people would know to get my
address. The way I heard about it was: A man --
he may be here, and I don't know him. Will Harris,
he put a note in my mailbox about this and said he
would like to speak to us. That is the only way I heard about this project, so I think that's important. And, Ms. McDaniel, I'm glad that you mentioned that.

Also, the part about the colored maps, I sat here and scribbled what areas were going to be what on that map, so, you know, we really need to know. Part of my land does come near that, but I do live on that road. There are four houses on that road we have that have wells that were dug -- drilled 600/700 feet. I'm concerned about the water being depleted. And also we have two ponds, one of which is spring-fed. They all have -- both of them have fish in them.

Along with the other health problems -- but I think my main concern is the water, and, again, as Morris said, the property values. When you own that much land, you know, you expect to sell it or leave it to your children. Is anybody going to want it being that close to it? Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Crane. And I did want to follow up because you mentioned the -- the handout, and Representative McDaniel did, as well. To assure anyone that would like a color copy, we will be more than happy to provide that. If you are in
person there, if you'll let Kristy know before you
leave where we can send that to, we'll be -- we'll
be glad to do that.

If you're joining us virtually, the
presentation is posted on our web page, but if you
would also like a color copy, please just get in
touch with us and let us know that, and we'll be
glad to provide that to you.

So, moving on now, I would like to call on
Lauren Megill Milton with the South Carolina
Environmental Law Project. I believe she's there
in person, Kristy.

MS. ELLENBERG: Well, Donna, it looks like she's making
her way to the front.

MS. MOYE: Okay. We will give her just a moment.

MS. MILTON: I've just got short legs. I'm slow.

MS. ELLENBERG: No. Hey, it's a big --

MS. MOYE: It looks like --

MS. ELLENBERG: We've got a big room and -- and a very
full crowd tonight.

MS. MILTON: We sure do. Hey, y'all. My --

MS. MOYE: Thank you.

MS. MILTON: -- name is Lauren Megill Milton. I'm an
attorney with South Carolina Environmental Law.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you get closer to the mic,
so we can hear you?

MS. MILTON: Oh, yeah, yeah. Sorry. I'm an attorney with South Carolina Environmental Law Project. If you guys have been here at the last public meeting or the one at Ridgeway, you've probably seen me already. I've spent the last few months looking over this proposal and coming up here, and I've gotten to know so many of y'all up here in Fairfield County.

This might seem like a little bit of a backstory, but it all ties in, I promise. But one of the things that I've noticed is when y'all are telling me the concerns that you have about this quarry, you're not only telling me your concerns for yourselves and for your families. You're telling me your concerns for your neighbors, for the folks, you know, who live up the road, down the road, upstream, downstream. Nearby property owners are worried about the ones that are adjacent homeowners. This is a community of people who are good neighbors who look out for their neighbors, and I like that. And I understand that, with this proposal, Luck Stone wants to be your neighbor.

I have concerns -- deep concerns about this project I've shared with DHEC. I hope they listen
to those, and I hope they listen to all of your
concerns about the project, also. But more than
that -- because DHEC knows what I have to say about
the project -- I want Luck Stone to hear me
tonight.

And what I have to say is: If you want to
come to this community, you need to commit to being
the kind of neighbor to them that they are to one
another. And what that means is transparency. It
means sharing the information that you have. It
means making promises and keeping them. One of the
biggest concerns that I've had and still have about
this is water quality. We need more answers on
water quality. You guys need to feel secure in it.
There's a lot of impacts here that are all
cumulative over the next hundred years. We need
some answers.

On that point, what I would like to ask Luck
to do to fit into this community -- a community
that looks like this and looks out for their
neighbors -- commit to transparency, listen to the
suggestions of the community, make DHEC's job
easier right now by committing to perform routine
hydrology tests and posting the results for the
community so that they feel secure, commit to
replacing the wells of people who feel like their well might be impacted.

We also share the concerns of the community on dust. We would like to see Luck do formal dust-monitoring mitigation, install some air monitors. Rock-crushing operations in quarries are a dusty business. That's what every -- all the water is needed for. But monitor, post those results for the community. Transparency -- share the information that you have.

And the other thing that I'd like to see you do is a citizen panel board so that everybody can share their discussions, talk about this, and it's monitored on an ongoing basis. That's what I'd like to see from Luck.

DHEC, thank you for your time in setting up this meeting.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Milton. And I do remember you from the public meetings, so thank you for coming back to join us for the public hearing, as well.

Okay. I want to go to someone who, I believe, is joining us by phone, Susan Randall. Ms. Randall, you can *6 to unmute your phone.

MS. RANDALL: Can I speak to you (technical
disturbance)?

MS. MOYE: I --

MS. RANDALL: Can you hear me?

MS. MOYE: I can hear you, thank you. Please go ahead.

MS. RANDALL: Okay. I'm online, but I'm not on phone.

As the owner of two pieces of land next to the Luck company project, I will be directly impacted by the quarry mining industry. If you got the map that everyone has, the green map with the orange inlay, I am just north of Phase 1, and I am just east of Phase 1 next to the cranes. My property backs up to Phase 1.

Phase 1 is to be the blasting pit of the quarry. It's where the noise and the sound and the air quality needs to be monitored. It needs to be reported to the property owners on a regular basis. I agree with Lauren. We need to have postings -- public postings in the newspaper, at the post office, wherever you can put it out all over Fairfield County so that everyone is aware of when the blasting starts and when the blasting stops.

If I were to build a house on my land, I might not be able to breathe the air, as I am an asthmatic, and have been one all of my life. The dust would kill me. The noise level must be
restricted to certain hours, and we must be
informed of the schedule.

The next phase is Phase 2, directly below
Phase 1. That's where the plant would be. The
wetlands -- I'm sorry -- it's directly across --
it's the wetlands area. This is another permit.
And as my land contains a stream and it is directly
north of the wetland, I need to find out if the
sediments are monitored. And fill materials, which
might affect the water quality, these need -- we
need to know about this.

We want the buffers to be raised at least --
at least 30 feet to protect the health of all
bodies of water and streams. These buffers must be
at least 100 feet wide around the streams and any
other bodies of water such as their ponds. My
brother, my cousin, many of us have ponds on our
land. We must have buffers of 100 feet wide around
these.

The South Carolina Department of Natural
Resources wrote on May the 14th to Mr. Eddy that
after inspecting our property, he saw that there
was a need for silt fences or silt barriers, which
should be installed prior to any activity of this
mining process. This is to protect the waterway.
It also said that land clearing should not begin until the sediment has been established -- a sediment basin.

As I'm running out of time, I will cut quickly to the last part of this, which I believe has been said, but I think it's very important. And I also wanted to say to Annie: Thank you for eliminating the hundred years and cutting back. They should go back, for permitting, in a 50-year or a 20-year basis, not 100 years.

Can Luck Stone Quarry guarantee they will follow our recommendations, and if not, then who are we to call? We want this business to be held accountable. We want this project to be transparent, and we want this process to be responsibly monitored. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Randall. Thank you, so much.
Now I would like to call on Pelham Lyles, who I believe is there at the school.

MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, she's coming to the microphone now.

MS. MOYE: Okay.

MS. LYLES: Hi. Thank you for allowing me up here. As a local historian, I've been concerned about archeological sites and -- and the historic
structures. But also I see that the Blair-Vaughn Stagecoach House has been included now for monitoring for seismic conditions, what could happen to the foundation. There will be a pre-blast survey done on that house so that ensuing cracks in the foundation or anything else will -- can be attributed to whatever, and I appreciate that. But I think there are a lot of houses that may be slightly out of that distance that's -- with the first pit.

Now, there are two other pits that will be planned in the future, and will there be separate permits on that kind of thing? There'll be houses that will be affected by those. There are houses that are just outside that -- that distance that's required to protect them. But I'm -- I'm glad that you are doing a study because that's a National Register house that I helped to do the restoration on, and I -- I'm glad to see it will be protected in that way. And hopefully, their well will be protected, also.

But I would like to see that other houses will be included in this and that this will be done previous to each developing stage of the development of the quarry. Thank you.
MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Lyles. I would now like to call on Brandon Jones on behalf of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. Mr. Jones, I'm not sure --

MR. JONES: Yes. Can you hear me?


MR. JONES: Great.

MS. MOYE: And I forgot to -- I also forgot: Please remember to state your name, and spell it for the court reporter.

MR. JONES: Certainly.

MS. MOYE: Thank you.

MR. JONES: My name is Brandon Jones, B-r-a-n-d-o-n, J-o-n-e-s. I'm the Catawba Riverkeeper at the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. Thank you all for the opportunity to comment on this proposed mining permit, and we definitely -- I definitely appreciate the hybrid format. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation is a member-funded environmental nonprofit who educates and advocates for the protection of the Catawba-Wateree River and all its tributaries. The organization represents over 6,000 active members across 26 counties and two states to rely on the watershed for drinking water, recreation, and electricity.
This site is located at the headwaters of Dutchman's Creek, a tributary of the Catawba and Lake Wateree. Streams on the site were identified as impaired for fecal bacteria back in 2003 and then a TMDL, total maximum daily load, was published in 2011 by DHEC. Since then, unfortunately, the creek has not improved to meet recreational standards. Samples taken at the nearest downstream site about four miles away -- this site was established back in 2019 -- showed averages over the recreational criteria and will most likely be listed as "impaired" during the next cycle.

While, hopefully, the mine is not a source of bacteria -- unless they have a failing septic system -- they will most likely increase turbidity, both from the discharge and from the runoff. That increase in turbidity can slow the natural degradation of harmful bacteria from -- from UV radiation. And the site makes up about 12 percent of the TMDL watershed, which would definitely increase the total impervious area and runoff within that area -- within that site.

Dutchman's Creek, which begins on the site, is also a tributary of Lake Wateree. The lake is
currently facing water quality challenges primarily
due to changes in land use and development. The
cove of Dutchman's Creek where it meets Lake
Wateree is listed as "impaired" for pH, chlorophyll
A, and phosphorus.

However, should DHEC decide to permit this, we
would certainly recommend enhancing the gation
measures. We would echo SCDNR with the 100-foot
buffer, as opposed to the 75; increase monitoring
wells; and also special attention to the fish
species of concern within Dutchman's Creek. A good
way to address that and the turbidity issues would
be to alter the proposed discharge limits.
Downstream monitoring reveals an average turbidity
in Dutchman's Creek of about 20 NTUs. And so we
would recommend that be used as the proposed
maximum discharge for turbidity on their wastewater
and -- or on their wastewater discharge.

For the stormwater basin, we recommend going
above state minimums to at least size for the 25-
year storm, and we'd also recommend using
stormwater catchments designed for phosphorus
reduction, given the -- the nature of the
phosphorus and algal blooms in the receiving stream
down -- about 11 miles downstream at Lake Wateree.
We're also very concerned with impacts to the drinking water. As mentioned in the public hearing -- or, sorry -- public meeting, we recommend that no storage of hazardous materials or washouts be used within that public water-well protection zone, particularly underground storage tanks and any kind of gasoline or diesel fuels. Thank you very much.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is there any way to turn the volume up?

MS. MOYE: Next, we want to call on Virginia Pierce, who I believe is there in person.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can you turn the mic up or adjust it so we can hear better?

MS. ELLENBERG: I was going to say --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

MS. ELLENBERG: So I -- I believe this microphone is more about hooking into the virtual meeting, so --

MS. MOYE: Kristy, I believe there's -- we have a Ms. Pierce there. I see her coming down the aisle now.

MS. ELLENBERG: I apologize for that, but adding another microphone would give us a lot of feedback.

MS. MOYE: I would remind you, Ms. Pierce, to, please, state your name and spell it for the court reporter.
MS. PIERCE: It's Virginia Pierce. Virginia, like the state and --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you talk louder --

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: -- and into the microphone, please?

MS. ELLENBERG: So, again, the microphone is actually helping us connect into the virtual meeting. So we need to -- we're -- we're more than six feet apart from the speaker. If we'd just make sure we -- we have to use a really loud voice, Ms. Pierce. Thank you.

MS. PIERCE: Is this the microphone?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No. It doesn't work.

MS. ELLENBERG: It's --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Don't worry about it.

MS. ELLENBERG: It works for the virtual meeting, but just -- we need to be able to kind of yell for the -- them. Thank you.

MS. PIERCE: Virginia Pierce, V-i-r-g-i-n-i-a, P-i-e-r-c-e. I forgot what the last -- second part was, but . . .

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Speak up.

MS. ELLENBERG: Just speak as loudly as you can, and -- and -- thank you.
MS. PIERCE: This is as loud as I can go. I live in a
National Register historic house, and a lot of the
literature -- there's some follow-up literature
with the cultural resources reports and that sort
of thing, and everything says I'm more than half a
mile from any impact areas. And when I'm trying to
measure the maps that were provided in this
PowerPoint slide and the reports, what I could see
is: I'm up to 2100 feet on the western boundary,
and that's where the future impact area is -- which
I appreciate the explanation today, that they would
have to do another permit.

There's so many -- this is just one of my
concerns about our historic home. We think it's
200 years old now. By the time they get to this
area, it could be 250 to 300, if it survives that
long. And if you're not trying to protect
something that's really unique and valuable in our
county, you know, what are we going to protect? So
it's a really interesting place. I invite you to
come by and see it.

And there's light pollution that are concerns.
I don't want 24-hour light pollution. We see
stars. it's really beautiful out where we live.
And all down the line, everybody's done a
great job of air quality, our wells, all of that
sort of thing. So I'm concerned with -- I
appreciate everybody else's input because I'm
concerned with everything everybody else has said.
And I really appreciate Representative McDaniel and
how you heard our concerns and showed up here
tonight. Thanks.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Pierce. And next I would like
to call on someone who I believe is calling in
tonight, and I don't want to butcher the name, but
it's Carol Aguilar. Ms. Aguilar, if you are
joining us by phone, you can *6 to unmute your --
your line.

(No response.)

MS. MOYE: Okay. We will come back to Ms. Aguilar in
case she's having trouble connecting with us. And
I will go to John Lyles, who I believe is joining
us virtually.

MR. LYLES: Yes. John Lyles, J-o-h-n, L-y-l-e-s. I'm
the landowner to the west. My border was right
against the -- where the pit -- Phase 1 pit is, and
most of my concerns continue to be about
groundwater, mostly groundwater quantity and what's
going to happen in the future, because based on
what has been issued by Luck Stone and their S&ME
company that did their work for Chester -- was
100,000 gallons a day being used, up to 12 1/2
years, until they could get enough makeup water
from the dewatering in the pit itself. And I
assume there's a way they're going to get that
water. It was explained in the last meeting that
it would be due to rain and collection like that,
but actually, they're going to need a lot of water,
according to what they're writing in the other
quarry reports. So I'm curious how they're going
to get that water, and if it is going to be a well,
none of that has been in any of the documents in
this application. There's nothing about their
well, the production well, makeup water well.

One of the reasons I'm concerned is that I
have a -- a pond that's 900 feet from the pit, and
that pond is not going to last. It just has a
shallow aquifer fed from seeps and springs. Those
are going to dry up when that pit's going and also
during that drawdown, possibly just from the
production -- the makeup well.

In addition to that, the -- another concern is
for the Ridgeway water well. It's only 2100-and
some-odd feet -- I can't remember what I measured
but -- from the future area. It is 3200 feet from
the pit, but the actual edge of the Ridgewater --
or the Ridgeway well protection zone overlaps -- it
overlaps into that future area, so that's a concern
for that.

And I was looking at the new hydrological
report that came out -- the groundwater modeling
report that came out July 19th, and that was really
focused on Ridgeway's concerns. As a matter of
fact, it only talks about the drawdown of water for
the Ridgeway well, about it being 15 feet in the 40
years.

However, it doesn't address any of the
adjacent landowners' wells. For instance, Willie
Qualls' well, which is just -- Willie Qualls, Q-u-
a-l-l-s -- is just to the east of the quarry land,
and he's predicted to have a 50-foot drawdown of
water in his well in 40 years. And my sister
Josephine, who's also going to, maybe, comment, she
has got a well on the northwest corner, and it's
going to have a 100-foot drawdown in 40 years.
Well, that's the depth of her well, so that one's
definitely a goner.

And so I'm concerned that these drawdown
predictions aren't talking to any of the
landowners. We're only addressing Ridgeway, and
yet the landowners' wells are going to dry up based
on these models. But the model isn't complete.

It's missing calibration wells. There's no
measurements that were done to produce water and
actually -- accurately calibrate their model.

The model -- I'll quickly finish this. The
model was based on Chester and Enoree, South
Carolina models. And because it's lacking that, I
would like to see Luck -- or, rather, DHEC to delay
the approval of this application until that well is
drilled and they have an accurate drawdown
measurement, or at least a drawdown model based on
real pumping in that area. So thank you for the
chance to speak.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Lyles. Next, I will
call on Robert Seibels, who I believe is there in
person with you, Kristy.

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, Donna. Mr. Seibels is coming up
now.

MS. MOYE: Okay. Remind Mr. Seibels to, please, spell
your name for the court reporter.

MR. SEIBELS: Will do. My name's Robert Seibels. It's
R-o-b-e-r-t, S-e-i-b-e-l-s. We're going to have a
little redundancy here, folks, because I'm going to
talk about water, too.
I'm president of Vinsburrow Timber Farm, LLC. It's a family-owned, 326-acre tract that lies just west of Barber Road, adjacent to and behind the National Historic Register house known as the "Stagecoach House"; we just heard about it. Our property, which extends eastward towards Simpson, past the railroad crossing at Jewel Drive, includes a home on Merlin Drive -- which is actually our driveway -- three water wells, all shallow wells, and a pond.

My brother, sister, and I are very troubled by the threat posed to our water resources from the proposed Luck Stone Quarry. Created in 1980, our two-acre, spring-fed pond and one of our wells are less than 6,000 feet from the pit of the proposed Phase 1 mine site, and only 3,000 feet from the future impact area. The springs that feed our pond have run continuously for the past 40-plus years, even in severe drought, providing a constant water level in the pond.

Although they have apparently not confirmed the source, Luck Stone estimates that they will use 100,000 gallons of water per day for the first 12 years of operation. That is far more water than the towns of Winnsboro, Ridgeway, and all the
private wells in the vicinity collectively use in a
day. That's a lot of water. There's only one
source for that water: new wells that Luck intends
to drill on the mine site. Despite their
assurances, how do we know that withdrawing that
unprecedented amount of water for more than a
decade will not adversely affect our pond and
wells? We've been promised an intense,
transparent, and responsive monitoring program.
Even if that becomes a reality, we would like to
know how Luck Stone or DHEC is going to revive a
spring-fed pond with no spring.

Once Luck Stone receives their permit to
operate for 100 years -- that's a -- I can't get my
head around how -- how -- how many years that is,
and I don't think anybody out there can, either --
we believe our concerns will be swept under the rug
forever. The next four generations of surrounding
landowners will be powerless to prevent Luck Stone
from doing whatever they please behind their berms.

Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Seibels. It did look to me
like maybe you were reading your comments. Please
feel free to leave those with the court reporter
before you leave tonight, and she'll make sure that
that is included with the transcript of the hearing. We -- we have you recorded, but if you wanted to leave that hard copy to assist her with the transcription, we encourage you to do so.

Next, I would like to call on James Kilgo, who, I believe, is joining us by phone or online.

MS. KILGO: Yes. Can you hear me?

MS. MOYE: Yes. I can. Thank you, so much. Please remember to spell your name for the court reporter, and go ahead.

MS. KILGO: Yes, certainly. It's James Kilgo, J-a-m-e-s, K-i-l-g-o. I'm with the South Carolina Rural Water Association. I am the source water protection specialist for SCRWA, and I am tasked with working with rural water utilities to ensure the safe and effective distribution of water, especially as it concerns potential contamination. So this is certainly something that I heard off -- secondhand from someone and am very interested to know a couple different things. What -- was there a environmental assessment completed for this particular property? I did -- I was able to review the data and info provided by S&M&I, and would this data and the conclusions found stand up against an environmental assessment in comparison?
I am also conducting a -- a watershed-based plan through EPA 319 and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through SCDHEC and for the Lake Wateree watersheds and am particularly interested and concerned about Dutchman's Creek exposure to this. And I would suggest that Luck Stone, if approved for this, become a committed partner for the Lake Wateree watershed-based plan for which I am the lead partner on this with a number of other committed stakeholders within the area. And as everybody -- as a number of folks mentioned, Lake Wateree is currently experiencing significant water quality issues as is, impairments and so forth, facing a TMDL as well. And I think with the addition of a mine, this certainly serves to exacerbate maybe some of the issues that we have, especially in the context of the increased frequency of extreme weather events, whether they be hundred-year floods or even thousand-year floods.

So that's all I've got. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Kilgo, and thank you for the birds in the background. That's a nice added touch that we don't normally have.

Okay. Now I would like to call on -- I
believe there's a couple there in person, Jim and
Eleanor Parrish. Kristy, I'm not sure if one or
both of them wanted to speak.

MS. ELLENBERG: Okay. It looks like Ms. Parrish is
coming.

(Technical disturbance.)

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am. Let me -- let's take one
moment, Donna. We're going through the names that
have preregistered to speak, and we're going to --
we're getting some feedback from some who are
unmuting. We're taking note of those who also were
kind of raising their hand, and we're going to also
have kind of that open call for others who didn't
preregister to speak; is that a good summary,

Donna?

MS. MOYE: Yes. That is correct. Thank you, Kristy.


MS. PARRISH: Yes.

MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you.

MS. PARRISH: My name is Eleanor Thomas Parrish, and I
grew up in Ridgeway. My parents were Laura and Bob
Thomas, and they were both mayors of Ridgeway.
Ridgeway was a great place to grow up. I'm also
concerned with some of the things that you are
concerned with: those with the air quality, the
water, the Ridgeway well, and hearing all of you
that are living in that vicinity about your wells
also.

I -- we also have -- my father's family goes
way back to the 1800s, and Dr. John Peyre Thomas
moved to Fairfield County in the 1800s from
Charleston to escape malaria. He wanted to bring
his family to a healthy environment, so he settled
in Fairfield and near Ridgeway. He built Mount
Hope Plantation, which is not too far from this
site. And, again, he wanted a healthy environment
for his family. One of the sons ended up starting
the -- Isaac Couturier Thomas started the Thomas
Company in Ridgeway.

But, again, Ridgeway was a wonderful place to
grow up. We still have some property that is near
the mining site, and we're concerned with that, of
course. There are 240 acres there, and we're
concerned about the devaluation of the property and
also water and air quality. And, of course, we're
concerned -- we do not own Mount Hope anymore, but
we're concerned about that historical building --
house -- also, and with the blasting in that area.

But, anyway, thank you. We did not get to the
other meetings, but thank you for letting us speak.
And, as I said, it was a wonderful place to grow up, and we just want Ridgeway to continue the way it is. I grew up with a town well and a water tank, and so I know the importance of water to Ridgeway and to our neighbors. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Parrish. Did Mr. Parrish also wish to speak?

MS. ELLENBERG: He's -- he's deferring, no, so . . .

MS. MOYE: Oh, okay. Just wanted to make sure that we didn't ignore the other half of that team there.

So, thank you.

MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, can I add one more note? We -- we have had --

MS. MOYE: Yes.

MS. ELLENBERG: -- some people speak who haven't spelled their name. We do have those forms for people who registered when they were coming in and some who registered online, so I think we're -- the -- those we've heard from thus far, we do have a spelling of your name. So rest assured we can -- we can help match that up with the court reporter as well.

Okay, Donna, thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Kristy. And we also have a few people who have joined us and who have raised their hand or tried to unmute to speak. Please note that
right now we are hearing from those who
preregistered to speak via our web page or who had
indicated in person that they planned to speak	onight. And we will get to those who are raising
their hands now just shortly.

So we have two more people who have
preregistered, and so now I will call on Pamela
Greenlaw. I believe Ms. Greenlaw is there in
person, and we'll give her a moment to get to the
microphone.

MS. GREENLAW: Yes. Can you pass me by, and I can come
back?

MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, Ms. Greenlaw has asked if you can
come back to her a little later in the night, so
let's -- let's keep going for now, okay?

MS. GREENLAW: Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Okay.

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

MS. MOYE: Next we have Cal Harrison. I believe Mr.
Harrison is there in person.

MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, he's on the way now.

MR. HARRISON: Thank you. I'm Cal Harrison from
Ridgeway, South Carolina, C-a-l, H-a-r-r-i-s-o-n.
I wanted to stand in opposition to this permit.
And what I wanted to talk to you today, I think --
really, I hope, DHEC -- everyone at DHEC will take
this to heart that I -- I think that you have a
credibility issue that needs to be addressed. I
attended the last meeting. It was very civil, but
my impression leaving that meeting was that DHEC
seemed like a PR agency rather than a regulatory
agency for this mining company.

And I'll -- don't have much time. Years ago,
I used to be a reporter. I worked with a guy named
Russ Shearer, who was chief of the Bureau of Water
Pollution Control. He was a very trustworthy
fellow. Whenever I interviewed him he would always
provide caveats, you know. He would say, "Yes.
These are the regulations. Yes, this is -- is how
it should be, but, no, we can't guarantee -- you
know, it's not a perfect world. We can't guarantee
how a computer model will actually act in the real
world." And I really respected that, but what I
heard at this last meeting were statements like --
that there will be no impact on Dutchman Creek for
a hundred years. I don't understand how anyone can
credibly make a statement like that.

Secondly, there were examples given of other
mines in the state and how well-run they are and
how we shouldn't be concerned because every --
because they're great examples. I didn't hear a
single example of a mine that's sitting right next
to a -- a community well water supply and right
next to a creek that runs into a lake that we know,
and have heard from many experts, is being
impacted.

Lastly, and -- and this is, I think, most
concerning. As I learned after that meeting, a
representative of the company spoke to a town
official with Ridgeway and offered to ask --
offered to take out an insurance policy on their
well in case something happened. And to me that
means that they themselves don't really have the
faith in this process, and so they're -- they're
basically trying to cover theirselves. And by --
by doing that, I think they're really, basically,
selling DHEC out because they themselves don't have
the confidence that they can protect the
environment.

I called on the advice of Rob Devlin from
DHEC, I called the -- the South Carolina Rural
Water Authority. I talked to James Kilgo, who just
spoke. I asked him the same questions: "Is -- is
there a potential for impact on Dutchman's Creek?"

He said, "Of course, there is."
"Is there a potential for the mining activity
to pollute the well water?"

"Of course, there is."

I -- I just want to point out that -- that
DHEC had a credibility problem back in the 1990s
through the Pinewood hazardous waste dump in
Sumter. What was determined through that, and DHBC
finally admitted, that there needed to be location
standards for those such facilities that, as far as
I can tell, there are no location standards. There
should be. This -- this could've -- have been
addressed before it actually came to this point,
because there are serious environmental things in
question.

So before you make a decision, I think that
you should address adopting location standards for
new mines, including this one. I think that Mr.
Kilgo's water -- watershed basin study should be
completed so that we can draw some conclusions
about how to protect Lake Wateree. And, thirdly,
we need some source water protection legislation in
the hands of DHEC, because there -- it was pointed
out that there are no local controls over source
water protection. That's because everyone expects
DHEC should have the -- the authority and should be
enforcing those controls, not local governments.

No one would expect that they would have to protect
they're -- this. That -- everyone thinks that
that's DHEC's responsibility.

So I just think that --

MS. MOYE: Mr. Harrison?

MR. HARRISON: Yes. I -- I'm finishing up -- that --

MS. MOYE: Okay.

MR. HARRISON: -- that I would appreciate it if you
would invest -- investigate all three of these
things that I've mentioned. And the easiest way, I
think, to restore your credibility, though, would
be just to deny this permit.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much. I just want to make sure
that we're giving everyone a fair opportunity to
make their comments tonight. We have a lot of
people who are interested, and we want to hear
their comments. So thank you so much for that, Mr.
Harrison.

I would like to go back for a moment to Mr.
McKinney to make sure, if he has joined us, if he's
able to unmute his line or join us virtually?

Kevin McKinney?

(No response.)

MS. MOYE: Please let the record reflect that Mr.
McKinney is not on the meeting tonight or the hearing tonight.

And I would also like to go back to Carol Aguilar, who I believe is also joining us virtually or had planned to. Ms. Aguilar, if you are with us, you can unmute your line to speak.

(No response.)

MS. MOYE: Please let the record reflect that Ms. Aguilar also is not in attendance tonight.

So that concludes everyone who pre-registered to make their comment. We will now begin from those of you who did not pre-register to speak but have decided to make a comment. For those of you joining in person, please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to make a comment, and Kristy will assist with getting you to the microphone at the appropriate time. For those of you joining online, please let us know you would like to comment by raising your hand using the hand icon or the microphone -- microphone icon on your screen. For those of you joining by phone, simply press *6 on your phone. After Katherine has noted who is raising a hand or unmuting virtually, your hand will be lowered and you may be muted again to reduce background noise until you are called on to
comment. When it is your turn, I will call on you
by either your name or the last four digits of the
phone number you're calling from.

I'll give Katherine a moment now to note those
who are attending virtually and indicating they
would like to comment. And I would like to
reiterate that DHEC staff are here to listen to
your comments about the proposed Fairfield Quarry.
Answers or responses to questions will not be
provided tonight. All comments made during this
hearing are being recorded. And if you are unable
to complete your comments within the allotted time,
you may still submit them in writing through the
end of the public comment period on Friday, August
20th of 2021.

We will now begin calling on those of you who
have decided to make a comment. And first up, I
have Josephine Lyles. Ms. Lyles, I believe you are
joining us online?

MS. LYLES: Yes. My --

MS. MOYE: Thank you.

MS. LYLES: -- name's spelled Josephine, J-o-s-e-p-h-i-n-e; last name, L-y-l-e-s. I am a landowner on
Barber Road in Fairfield County. I do have a
tenant house, and it is -- the well is within a
half-a-mile boundary around the proposed pit. So it's likely to be the first lowered water table if this happens. My well is 1,750 feet from the edge of the pit. I looked at some of Luck Stone's reports and maps, and first of all, they had mislocated my map where my well was, so I -- I pointed that out in my report to DHBC.

Should this occur, which hopefully doesn't, I would like to have a monthly monitoring -- monitoring report, and if there's any drop in the water in their deep well, which is near my property, my well, I would like to have a monthly monitoring report. And I would like to know how soon they can help my current tenant out should his well go dry. Are they going to bring it in as an emergency, and will they replace my well?

That's what I have to say.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Lyles.

Next, I would like to go back to the school and call on Pamela Greenlaw.

MS. ELLENBERG: Okay.

MS. GREENLAW: Okay. Hello. My name is Pamela Greenlaw, P-a-m-e-l-a, G-r-e-e-n-l-a-w. I'm going to reiterate a little bit, but I -- I might be a little more colorful. A lot of the things that I'm
noting in this permit that DHEC really does need to
focus on is that there aren't -- we -- we see in
the illustrations that there are monitors -- wells
for monitoring. We don't see any location of air
monitors. DHEC should require those. And DHEC
should collect all that information because if a
facility concentration rises above the National Air
-- Ambient Air Quality Standard offsite, that has
to be captured. That's going to affect people's
health. I challenge model assumptions without
DHEC's installed monitors and a track record
developed.

The predicted facility concentration --
"predicted," we don't know what that's based on.
It -- it seems to be plucked -- I'm sorry to say it
-- out of the air.

As far as the concerns of the community that
air and water are going to be affected, this
appears to me to be a taking of property, taking
people's ability to have clean water, clean air.
There's no -- a fugitive -- I already talked about
that.

I -- I oppose this mine on many of the grounds
that Mr. Harrison brought up, and I concur with the
suggestions that I've heard this evening from
everybody about what DHEC needs to require.

Certainly, a 100-year permit -- I don't know. Are you authorized -- and I can't answer that. Are you authorized to give anybody a 100-year permit?

We're all going to be dead. And -- and hate to, you know -- someone said that it was four generations. Actually, it's five generations before your children could come before DHEC to say anything about this. And by the way, a -- a little sidetrack here: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's doing the same kind of side-stepping and giving long permits, which are really an environmental justice issue because they are denying you the right to speak to these agencies directly. They're taking that -- they've -- this is an attempt to take that away with these extremely long permits. So, please, do not give them a long permit; ten -- ten years max. They must prove themselves trustworthy. Thank you very much.

MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw. Next, I'd like to call on Donny Laird, who I believe is joining us online.

MR. LAIRD: I decline to comment. I'm just listening to gain knowledge, and I'll be in touch with DHEC at
-- through -- online.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Laird. I know your daughters quite well, so we're glad to have you with us tonight.

Next, I'd like to call on Eben Stevenson, who I believe is online as well.

MR. STEVENSON: My --

MS. MOYE: Yes. Mr. --

MR. STEVENSON: My name is -- my name is Eben Stevenson. That's E-b-e-n, S-t-e-v-e-n-s-o-n. Now, my thoughts on this is -- certainly Luck Stone is not a publicly traded company, is my understanding. This is a -- a family-owned business. They're making all these promises they are going to go down a hundred years, and that just sticks out to me as crazy, like other people have said, but I won't repeat that.

The other problem I have is: I have looked at the gold mine that's on Highway 34 also, and toured it when it was in operation. They also had -- were going to reclaim this, and it was going to be a beautiful lake with houses built -- built around it. All right. A geologist took us on the tour and said it will fill up with water, be a beautiful lake. Right now it's got pine trees on it, a
chain-link fence around it, and another company, Kennecott, has bought it. And it's locked up and nobody can get in it.

Other examples of what's going on and what's being policed in South Carolina is: We have got Lee County in Bishopville that's taking garbage from New York City. We've got Barnwell that's taking atomic waste. And I don't know who's policing it or who's supposed to be policing it, but evidently somebody's not.

The other problem I've got is: Economically, the I-77 corridor from Columbia to Charlotte is going to -- in the next 20 years, it's going to be huge. And that land is going to be very, very valuable and will be very valuable for other types of industry to come in there without all these environmental issues. And economically, I would think that most of this money is -- yeah, I think Luck Stone is a Virginia-based company. Is -- is South Carolina and Fairfield County -- are we getting any monetary gain from this mine at all except having the environmental problems?

And that's all I have to say. But thank you so much for hearing me. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bravo.
MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Stevenson, and I -- I apologize for butchering your name.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

MS. MOYE: Next, we have Priscilla Preston online, I believe, who would like to make a comment.

MS. PRESTON: Yes. Thank you. My name is Priscilla Preston, P-r-i-s-c-i-l-l-a, P-r-e-s-t-o-n. And I'd like to talk about the -- the water problems associated with this quarry, not only the -- the water that could be lost, the ground water, but also the violation -- possible violations of the state water quality standards, which are intended to maintain and improve all surface waters to a level to provide for the survival of indigenous aquatic communities, as well as providing recreation in and on the water. And it sounds like recreation in general is not going to be as -- as pleasant as it -- as it is now if this quarry is -- is built there. It could have significant impacts for a hundred years on -- on surface water. It's -- it's very close to the public water well that supplies most of the water for the Town of Ridgeway, and it's marked for future use -- the -- the proposed project areas marked for future use are closer than the mandated public well protection
zone distance of 2,180 feet.

So for all of those reasons and for all of the reasons stated tonight, I ask that DHEC deny the permit.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Preston. Kristy, do we have anyone there with you at the school who has indicated they would like to make a comment?

MS. ELLENBERG: I do, Donna.

MR. THOMPSON: Hello. My name's Ben Thompson, B-e-n, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. I'm with Luck Companies. Thank you all for coming this evening and voicing your perspectives, your questions, your -- your thoughts on the project.

I did hear a couple things that I just wanted to make note of on record, which -- which may benefit some of the orientation on this project. One was from SCLEP, who was talking about a citizen panel board. That is not something that is unusual to us. We do that at many sites. Glad to go on record here for inclusion, if DHEC would like to, as a condition in our application.

Another thing that I heard was South Carolina Rural Water -- I'm not sure -- Authority?

Association? But -- but there was a comment about our participation, our part in the Lake Wateree
watershed conversation and ultimately maybe some regulations associated with that. We would be more than happy to partner on that, as well as the Catawba Riverkeepers. It's somewhat in keeping with our environmental ethic, so we're -- we work very heavily with the James River Association, the Ches Bay Foundation. All of that goes hand-in-hand with who we are and our environmental ethic.

I shared last time our -- our -- credentialed in Virginia as environmental excellence, which is the highest tier for an industry to partake in an award-type manner. And so we hold that -- that level of expectation upon ourselves. You-all should also hold us to that level of expectation.

There was a comment from the young lady, who, actually, I don't see right now, but -- worried about light escape bleeding onto other properties. Typically, we do not operate at night. That said, any lighting on our site will be downward-facing and directional to ensure no escape onto adjoining properties.

Another comment that came up several times was setbacks to water wetland areas. We'll be more than happy to go back and explore that and grow that as much as possible within our site. So right
now I think the -- the general expectation is 50 feet. If we can go greater -- 100 feet, 150 feet -- we will do so within our application.

The -- the transparency comment, dust monitoring, future and ongoing water quality and -- and quantity, all of that -- monitor wells, dust regulations, all of those things are captured in the regulatory environment. However, they all are also open-book, so that is public information. Anything we capture is -- is there for public consumption as desired. We can also include all those conversations in an ongoing fashion in a citizens' panel.

I'll wrap up. I -- I do want to say, though, please learn about our company. And we're more than happy to share in any conversation. Last time I gave out my phone number. Unfortunately, didn't get any calls; would love to get those calls. We'll also be here afterwards.

We are a really special company, and I know that sounds somewhat flip because I work for the company. But, seriously, this is a group, and there is a reason why I work for this group. It's important that you-all understand that and also understand that we do want to be, in the truest
sense of the word, a neighbor in the community, so
thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Thompson.

MS. ELLENBERG: I think there's some who are maybe
interested in that phone number, Donna, if we can
give a chance for Mr. Thompson to share that, and
maybe we can write it down over here, as well.

MR. THOMPSON: Sure. Phone number is (804)784-6300.
That'll get you to our front desk. The last time I
mentioned that my -- and my name's Ben Thompson, so
you can certainly ask for me. We have a lot of
people working on this project from a lot of
different competencies. And so if you call in and
you say, "I live in Fairfield County. I'm
interested in the project, and my main interest is
water," it may get routed to the water person, or
it may get routed to me. Regardless, we will get
you speaking with the right person that is the most
knowledgeable in that area.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The number, again?

MR. MOYE: Thank you --

MS. YON: Ben, can you say that number one more time,
please?

MR. THOMPSON: Sure can. (804)784-6300.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.
MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. It looks like I have called on everyone who wished to make a comment tonight. I will give a moment for anyone else who would like to make a comment to unmute their line or raise their hand.

MS. ELLENBERG: And, Donna, I think we have one more here.

MS. MOYE: Please just remember to state your name for the court reporter.

MS. COGGINS: Okay. I'll be short. My name is Kristi Coggins, K-r-i-s-t-i, C-o-g-g-i-n-s. I'm a new resident of Ridgeway from Blythewood, and we're probably three miles from this site. I've not heard the word "silicosis" mentioned. Silicosis is an airborne carcinogenic that is directly related to progressive, incurable lung cancer, birth defects. There's four different areas that it affects our youth, my children that are having children -- premature births, low birth weights, and obviously, heart disease.

All these things that we ingest -- we ingest the air every day. And last week we noticed all the smoke that came from the Oregon fires. I traveled, last Saturday, to Denver and went to the
Rocky Mountain National Forest, and it was covered with smoke. I know we're not talking about smoke, Luck. We're talking about cut granite dust that is ultra-fine and almost undetectable, maybe, by the eye. I'm concerned, and I oppose this permit.

Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Ms. Coggins, and thank you, Katherine. For those of you joining us virtually, you can see that Mr. Thompson's phone number is there on the screen if you did not get it earlier. It does look like we also had a Chris and Tina Cole or one or the other, who raised their hand.

MR. COLE: Hello. My name is Chris Cole; that's C-h-r-i-s, C-o-l-e. My wife and I moved to Winnsboro specifically for the solitude, and I would just kind of like to give you guys some bullet points as to how I or we feel about this.

Let's make no mistake. People are asking is the air quality going to be -- going to be impacted? Is the water quality going to be impacted? Light pollution? Noise Pollution? Road degradation? Seismic impact? And the answer to all of those questions is a resounding "Yes."

I certainly appreciate Mr. Thompson from Luck
Stone speaking with all of us, but I also understand that Mr. Thompson from Luck Stone is working for the company that wants to come into our community, and they -- they are driven by profit. They are not driven by the best interest of the community. They are not driven by maintaining the solitude of the community. And the idea of this in a community that we moved to, to enjoy life and enjoy stargazing, disgusts me.

I think we're better than this. I think our country is better than this, and I think we need to all adamantly say, "No. Not on our watch. Not for a hundred years. Not for a single decade." Thank you for the opportunity to let me speak.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Cole. I do want to note that we do have several people who are raising their hand online, and I believe we also have some others there in person who would still like to make a comment, so we will continue on with those. Kristy, you have someone there who would like to make a comment?

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, Donna. We have -- I think this is the -- the first of two hands I've seen. We'll look for some additional.

MS. MOYE: Okay. I would just remind you to please
state your name, and spell it for the court reporter.

MR. ZENO: Name is Mike Zeno, Z-e-n-o.

MS. ELLENBERG: I'm sorry. I was doing the --

MS. ZENO: Sorry.

MS. ZENO: -- mic wrong. You're -- you're up, Mike.

MR. ZENO: I'm up? All right.

MS. ELLENBERG: Start over again. Thank you.

MR. ZENO: My wife and I have been a resident of Fairfield County since 1992, and we moved here after I finished my military obligation because of the, again, peace, solitude. We just love it here, and it's been our home for a long time, obviously, and I'm opposed to this, all right?

As a physician, I'm aware of many of the problems that this type of company can potentially bring to this community. They're mining granite. Now, I'm definitely not a mining expert, obviously, but from -- if you mine granite, how much heavy metals are going to be exposed to our soil? our water? Lake Wateree? What about some of the radioactive materials that are involved with granite mining, okay? Uranium, radium, polonium.

So I'm opposed to this. I think our health is too important to risk anything with a company like
this. All this particulate matter for the poor
asthmatics, the people with emphysema, cystic
fibrosis, other lung diseases, I wouldn't trust it.
And that's all I have to say. Thank you, very
much, everybody.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Zeno.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could we have his name?

MS. ELLENBERG: I'm sorry. It was -- it was Mike Zeno.
Is that right?

MS. MOYE: "ZEE-no."

MR. ZENO: "ZEE-no." Z-e-n-o.

MS. ELLENBERG: Z-e-n-o. And my -- my apologies. I was
trying to make sure he was unmuted, and I
accidentally muted for a second there right when he
was speaking. So it's Mike Zeno, Z-e-n-o.

MS. MOYE: Okay. And I believe that you had indicated
you had someone else there in person, Kristy?

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. There is another.

MS. BROWN: My name is Harriet Brown, H-a-r-r-i-e-t, B-
r-o-w-n. I live on Lake Wateree. As we found in
Wateree Creek, what is supposed to happen doesn't
always happen. And now we're dealing with a large
sedimentation issue that we have to figure out how
to take care of. I, too, am concerned about
possible increasing and -- about possibly
increasing turbidity and/or sedimentation in both
the creek and in Dutchman Creek -- both the stream
and Dutchman Creek. My real question is: Who will
pay for problems if they happen in Dutchman Creek
because of Luck Stone?

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Brown. I do want to go back
to those who are virtually indicating that they
would like to make a comment. We are going to get
to those who have not had the opportunity to speak,
first.

So I would call on an individual; the last
four digits of the phone number is 5978. If the
last four digits of your phone number are 5978,
please unmute your line by pressing *6.

(No response.)

MS. MOYE: Okay. We can come back to that number. We
also had a David Lews (as spoken).

MS. YON: Hang on, Donna. I think --

MR. STEVENSON: Hello?

MS. YON: -- they unmuted.

MR. STEVENSON: Hello?

MS. MOYE: Hi. Is -- who is this?

MR. STEVENSON: This is Dan Stevenson, D-a-n, S-t-e-v-e-
n-s-o-n.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so --
MR. STEVENSON: And I wanted to comment of some concerns I have about the habitats of the monarch butterflies who come through Fairfield County. They are a species that there's been a lot of concern about right now. And the US Fish and Wildlife have not made them endangered yet, but they're only one step below that, and they've made their effort here to be toward conservation. And they say that companies that are working towards conservation here might have to enter into a national conservation agreement to work with that.

And the background on this is: Originally, it was just individuals doing this, but now the federal government and some companies have gotten involved, and they want to make this a -- a much bigger effort. And maybe -- and the University of Illinois is going to be involved, and then they want to set up some amateur conservationists to go around and check on -- on these places.

And I'm just wondering if -- has anybody ever contacted the -- the -- about the fish and wildlife -- either fish or wildlife -- to see if a conservation agreement is -- instructions -- what has to happen to make sure that these monarch butterflies who are losing ground because --
because their habitats are not being adequately
maintained and hadn't been good or being looked at.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Stevenson.

MR. STEVENSON: I think -- I think it needs to be looked
at. And this is a -- an issue that the -- the
monarchs are in Ohio right now. They migrate up
from New Mexico -- over the northern part of the
United States. They're in Ohio now. They should
be coming through Fairfield County in the very near
future. So it's concerning about the -- you know,
how they'll (technical disturbance) in Fairfield,
or whether we will be doing the conservation
efforts. And, also, where the habitat's concerned,
are they going to be adequate where the -- where --
you know, poisons and other chemicals could harm
them.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much for --

MR. STEVENSON: (Technical disturbance.)

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much for your comments, Mr.

Stevenson. We -- we have recorded those, and I
would like for Katherine to put up the slide,
please, with the phone numbers. Certainly, Mr.

Stevenson, that will be addressed in the response
summary, but if you would like to speak to someone
directly about that after tonight, we encourage you
to give us a call, and we'll be glad to talk with 
you more in length about that.

So we want to keep moving along, make sure we 
get to everybody. Kristy, did you have another 
person there who indicated they would like to 
comment?

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. Donna, we have a gentleman coming 
up now.

MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. QUALLS: How y'all doing this evening? My name's 
Willie Qualls, and I live right there on Grace 
Lane, right near where they just bought that 
property. When I first moved up there --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you spell your name, please?

MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. I was going to say can we get your 
name? Could you spell --

MR. QUALLS: Willie Qualls. That's W-i-l-l-i-e, Q-u-a-
l-l-s.

MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Qualls.

MR. QUALLS: I live right there on Grace Lane beside the 
new site. When I moved up there, every neighbor -- 

excuse me -- come up there and talked to me. I 
ain't heard nothing from this new -- whatever 
they're doing over there, I have no clue. But the 

concerns I have -- I came home today. I seen
squirrel and deer. I got a pond, two wells, turkeys. I think they're going to send snakes over there to me and take away my animals. That's all I had to say.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Qualls. I would like to reiterate we still do have some people who are raising their hands online. If you're raising your hand, we are noting down your name, and we'll call on you. If you just be patient with us, we appreciate that.

And we'll go straight on to David Lews (as spoken). Mr. Lews (as spoken), if you are still with us virtually, we will be glad to hear from you now.

MR. LEWIS: Yes, ma'am. My name is David Lewis, D-a-v-i-d, L-e-w-i-s. I live off of Barber Road next to the Lyles, the Seibels, and I've got Ms. Virginia in front of me.

My concern, as with all my neighbors, is about Luck. But my bigger concern is with DHEC with the mission statement that DHEC states, that they're to "improve the quality of life of all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment."

It's utterly disgusting that's it's came this
far -- if you're for us, protecting us, that you
would take it this far. Why -- you should've
denied it a long time ago. I -- I oppose Luck
coming here, but the bigger problem is: Why has it
got this far? And I'd like some answers, but, you
know, there probably won't be, but we'll find out.

Thanks.

MS. MOYE: Thank you --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Good question.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much. I would ask you, please,
to remain muted as we get through all the
commenters. We'll remind you that our permit
writers, Jeremy and Lance, are available to talk
with you after tonight, if you would like. Their
phone numbers are on the screen now. You can reach
Jeremy at (803) 898-7609, and Lance can be reached
at area code (803) 898-7220. We certainly do
encourage you, if you have questions that you would
like to discuss with someone, to please give us a
call.

And we also have a recording of the meeting
that was held a couple of weeks ago, I believe,
that -- where there was question-and-answer period
where some of those questions were answered. So a
recording of that meeting is also posted on our
website for anyone that would like to go back and
listen to it. We certainly appreciated hearing all
the comments and questions then as much as we do
tonight.

So it looks like we also have Susan Randall.

Ms. Randall, I believe you had spoke earlier, but
would you like to make a -- an additional comment
now?

MS. RANDALL: Yes. I'm really in favor of what

Representative McKinley said: Let's go back to
ten-year. Why do we need 100-year? Let's see what
ey they can do in ten years, and if they're no good,
throw them out and get our land back. That's my
comment.

MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Randall. With that, I
believe that we have called on everyone who wished
to make a comment during this public hearing.

Kristy, do we have anyone else in person there --

MS. ELLENBERG: Any other comments?

MS. MOYE: -- that would like to -- who will raise their
hand now if you would like to make a comment?

MS. GREENLAW: May I -- may I add -- I didn't use my
whole three minutes. May I have 30 seconds left --

MS. ELLENBERG: I believe Ms. Greenlaw had a -- a few
seconds left, and would like to -- to add a final
comment, or two, Donna, and . . .

MS. GREENLAW: Okay. Thank you. I've spelt my name
before, so I -- I'm not going to repeat that. I
appreciate that you have someone from mining and
from air quality tonight. Where's the water
person? Okay. We really need to speak to the --
the person who worked on the water mitigation plan,
which I don't really see much of a plan. There
doesn't seem to be reclamation of wetlands. And,
actually, wetlands usually cannot be reclaimed.
Once they're gone, they're gone. The intermittent
wetlands also don't seem to appear to be of concern
to DHEC or to Luck.

The ecosystem loss from losing these, okay, it
-- it -- that can't be reclaimed. They do -- and I
think I mentioned this in my comments before. They
-- there's what's -- was called "Ecosystem
Services." If you paid for a company to purify
your water, well, that has a cost. But wetlands do
it for us for free. It's a service God provides to
us, and it's being ruined, and they're going to
give us a pond that will not do the work that the
wetlands will do.

And so when I said something earlier about the
-- you know, like ten years, let them prove
themselves, that was kind of tongue-in-cheek. I oppose this mine totally. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw, for those additional comments.

MS. ELLENBERG: I think we've got one more, Donna.

MS. MOYE: Okay. It's great to have so many of you with us, and -- who are coming up to comment, so thank you. Please remember to state your name and spell it for the court reporter.

MR. WHITE: Uh-huh. My name is Robert White, R-o-b-e-r-t, W-h-i-t-e. I'm a reporter with "The Country Chronicle," and I just wanted to follow up on something that happened at the last meeting.

Joe Koon, who is a project manager with DHEC's division of mining and solid waste management, said, "We have obviously received very new information in regards to the groundwater model that we are evaluating." The meeting was held on the 22nd; the 19th is when the report was issued from SME -- or from Luck Stone, that was produced by SME. And he goes on to say, "We're very interested in reaching out to the Town of Ridgeway to better understand the operations of that well and to better understanding the pumping time frames." And this all has to go to water quantity.
In looking over the preparation of tonight's meeting -- said we talk about the air permit but said the item that -- obviously, DHEC was not prepared to speak on in the last meeting is omitted -- is the water quantity. And I would like to know has that been resolved, and how is the process that it's been resolved?

Obviously, SME works for Luck Stone, and they prepared all of these intricate reports, and they're -- they go on -- if you haven't looked at them, they go on and on and on. As DHEC -- do they do an equal amount of due diligence vetting this information? And since we weren't presented this information at the last meeting, is it -- has it been vetted now? What is the process of -- of vetting it, and do we do -- do we have our own specialists -- as the people -- have their own specialists, just like Luck Stone has SME as their specialists?

So I just want to know, is -- if the information that was not available has been followed up on, and the process by which it was followed up on. Thank you.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. White.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The truth comes out.
MS. MOYE: We appreciate your comments -- or your attendance at the meeting and at the hearing. I will just reiterate that this public hearing is a formal proceeding, and therefore questions are not answered during the public hearing, but we will certainly be more than happy to speak with you about the questions that you have raised tomorrow. And I have your name down, and we'll be glad to have somebody back in touch with you, if you'd like, or you can contact Joe after tonight.

So I think we have, maybe, one more raised hand virtually. And, Kristy, if you don't have anyone else there who is indicating they would like to speak, I think after we hear from this last virtual person, we will move forward with having closing comments.

So, I believe, virtually, someone with a telephone number ending in 9944 has indicated they would like to make a comment. If you'll just press *6 on your phone.

MS. YON: Looks like they're unmuted, Donna.

MS. MOYE: Okay. Again, the person with the phone number ending in 9944, you can make your comment now.

(No response.)
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MS. MOYE:** Okay. We're going to pass through, and I had one more person -- Mr. Lyles, I know that you spoke earlier. Did you want to speak again briefly?  
**MR. LYLES:** Yes. John Lyles, L-y-l-e-s. I spoke earlier about groundwater, and I did want to make one more point about the groundwater.  
The hydrological study -- the limited hydrological study that came out in March, followed up by the report called "The Groundwater Modeling Study," on July 19th, just before the last meeting, I've really gone through both of those reports quite a few times now trying to see what's changed. And it looks to me like the same underlying assumptions from a company called "THG," I think -- THG Geophysics. They did the original testing and measurements using techniques, geophysical, to try to figure out where the water would be moving in the bedrock, and they came up with some conclusions.  
Well, it looks like this last report was sort of a regurgitation of the same information but with an emphasis on, "Oh, we aligned the lineaments and the" -- what do you call them? -- "diabase dikes" with the Ridgeway well. And now we can say that the Ridgeway well won't be affected in 40 years; it
might drop 10 feet."

But, I guess, my real question is: Why is this information so evasive in this particular proposal, whereas in Chester there was a lot of pumping studies, and there was a real model created. And in this particular groundwater, not only modeling report but the original limited report, there really isn't a model. It's sort of based on the other county's measurements, and it looks to me like there is a real lack of data here -- basic data to get such conclusions that the water's not going to affect the other wells like Mr. Qualls' and the other ones that we talked about.

But I do believe that needs to be a very important thing that DHEC looks at now because we are seeing -- you know, we're seeing evidence that a lot of people are concerned about the water, so that's all I have to say. And thanks, everybody, for putting up with this, and all the people that showed up.

MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Lyles. It has certainly been a good turnout, and we do appreciate everyone's attendance, both in person and online.

So on behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank
everyone for joining us tonight and giving us your comments. Please note, once again, that -- well, that was one of the first times that I -- that I was just a chatting away, and I was on mute, so I apologize. But I was just going to echo Mr. Lyles, that we really do appreciate everyone joining us tonight and giving us your comments.

And on behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank everyone for joining us tonight and giving your comments. Please note once again that written comments may be submitted by mail or e-mail to DHEC through August 20, 2021. All written comments received on or before this date will be considered in DHEC's decision-making processes.

It is important to note that DHEC's final decisions on the mine operating permit application and the draft air permit are two separate decisions. Each decision will be made after the public comment period ends, as follows: For the draft air permit, DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality will review and consider all comments received and may request additional information from the applicant, if necessary. A decision will then be made to approve, disapprove, or modify the draft permit.

For the mine operating permit application,
DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management will review and consider all comments received and may request additional information from the applicant, if necessary. A decision will then be made to approve or deny a mine operating permit.

Once final permit decisions are made, DHEC will provide a summary response to all comments received. The permit decisions and summary of responses to all comments received will be posted on our web page and provided to everyone on our mailing list. You have the right to request a final review of any permit decision made by DHEC. The final review request must be submitted in writing to DHEC's clerk of the board, along with a filing fee in the amount of $100 within 15 days after notice of DHEC's permit decision has been mailed. In consideration of this requirement, you will receive notification of DHEC's permit decision by standard US mail or by e-mail. If you wish to be notified of DHEC's decision by certified mail instead, please make your request in writing no later than August 20, 2021.

On behalf of DHEC, I would, again, like to thank you for your attendance and comments this evening. As the state's public health agency, DHEC
encourages you to help us win the fight against COVID-19 by getting a safe, effective, and free vaccine. For information on COVID-19 and finding a vaccine location near you, call 1-866-365-8110 or visit our website at SCDHEC.gov/vaxfacts, and that's v-a-x-f-a-c-t-s. The time is now 8:29 p.m., and this hearing is officially adjourned. You may disconnect at this time. Good night.

(Whereupon, at 8:29 p.m., the public hearing of the above-entitled matter was concluded)

(*This transcript may contain quoted material. Such material is reproduced as read or quoted by the speaker.*)
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )
                        )
COUNTY OF YORK )

Be it known that Cindy H. Patterson took the
foregoing proceeding and hereby attests:

that I was then and there a notary public in and
for the State of South Carolina-at-large and that by
virtue thereof I was duly authorized to administer an
oath;

that the deponent/witness was first duly sworn
to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
but the truth, concerning the matter in the
controversy aforesaid;

that the foregoing transcript represents a true,
accurate, and complete transcription of the testimony
so given at the time and place aforesaid to the best
of my skill and ability;

that I am neither a relative nor an employee of
any of the parties hereto, nor of any attorney or
counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor
interested in the outcome of this action;

that, if a recording of an event was supplied by
another party for purposes of transcription and I was
not present during that event, the foregoing pages
were transcribed to the best of my skill and ability;
additionally, any identifications of speakers were
provided to me by the party supplying the recording;

that, in the event of a nonappearance by the
witness, the foregoing details for the nonappearance
are accurate.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto affixed my
signature and title.

Cindy Patterson

Date: 8/23/2021
Notary public for South Carolina
My commission expires June 30, 2027
*Unless otherwise noted, this notary public
administered the oath. Please refer to the
transcript for any exceptions.