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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: All right. So hello and welcome. The time is now actually 7:21 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023, and this public hearing will now begin. My name is Juli Blalock, and I will serve as the hearing officer tonight. This 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 permits for the proposed Saluda Quarry.

Luck Stone Corporation has submitted applications to DHEC to construct and operate this granite mine at a site located on Double Bridges Road near the intersection with Heather Lane in Saluda County, approximately five miles northwest of Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina. 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

1 ensure that human health and the environment are
2 protected. In addition to reviewing the
3 application, DHEC's role is to write and, if
4 issued, enforce permits that meet the requirements
5 of the regulations.

6 You also have a role in DHEC's permitting
7 process. Your comments are very important to us
8 and may provide DHEC staff with additional things
9 to consider when making final decisions regarding
10 the proposed quarry. Final decisions have not yet
11 been made and will not be made here tonight. The
12 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide
13 comments before final decisions are made. Comments
14 made tonight are being recorded and will be
15 included in a written transcript prepared by a
16 certified court reporter. DHEC welcomes and
17 encourages all comments made tonight, as well as
18 those submitted in writing through the end of the
19 public comment period on Friday, December 15, 2023.

20 DHEC has created a web page for convenient
21 access to information about the proposed quarry.
22 The web page address is
23 www.DHEC.SC.gov/LuckStoneSaluda. Presentations
24 from tonight's public meeting will be posted on the
25 web page prior to the end of the public comment

1 period.

2 If you have not already done so, I encourage
3 each of you to go to the sign-in table tonight or
4 use the mailing list form on DHEC's Luck Stone
5 Saluda web page. This will let us know how to
6 notify you of the final decisions regarding the
7 proposed quarry.

8 As you can see up here, we also have
9 information on how to provide those comments, and
10 again, we will all be here to answer any questions
11 specifically if you need this information later.

12 We will now move to our agenda and the order
13 in which we will proceed for this hearing. An
14 overview of the proposed quarry modification and
15 DHEC's mine permitting process has been provided by
16 Sarah Harris. Following Sarah's presentation, an
17 overview of the draft air permit and DHEC's air
18 permitting process was provided by Mareesa
19 Singleton. A statement will be shared providing an
20 overview of this project as we begin the hearing.

21 Following the reading of the statement, I will
22 begin the public comment portion by calling on
23 those of you who indicated during preregistration
24 that you would like to make a comment. If you have
25 decided that you no longer wish to speak when you

1 are called on, you may decline at that time. Once
2 we have finished hearing from all preregistered
3 speakers, those who did not preregister to speak
4 will be given an opportunity to make their
5 comments. At that time, I will give instructions
6 on how to indicate that you would like to make a
7 comment. After all comments have been heard, I
8 will make closing remarks and this public hearing
9 will be adjourned.

10 In order for everyone to have a fair and equal
11 opportunity to participate tonight and to ensure
12 that we proceed in a timely and effective manner,
13 the following four guidelines have been
14 established. First, there will be no questions or
15 answers during or after a presentation or comment.
16 Second, your comments should not go over three
17 minutes each. At the end of your allotted time, I
18 will interrupt to encourage you to conclude your
19 comments at that time. If you are not able to
20 complete your comments within the allotted time,
21 you are still able to submit written comments
22 before the end of the public comment period.
23 Please keep in mind that final decisions are not
24 made based on vote or how many people say the same
25 thing. Third, please be respectful towards all who

1 are presenting information or making comments here
2 tonight. You each have a unique and valued
3 perspective. No one comment is considered more
4 important than another. And, fourth, please do not
5 interrupt or ask other participants to respond
6 during your comments. Comments or actions that
7 distract from the purpose of this hearing will not
8 be allowed.

9 I will now call on Sarah Harris to present the
10 statement for this proposed project.

11 MS. HARRIS: On August 17, 2023, Luck Stone Corporation
12 submitted a mine operating permit application to
13 mine granite in Saluda County. Total permitted
14 area will be 331 acres with 284.1 acres affected
15 and 46.9 acres of buffer.

16 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you, Sarah. As we
17 transition into the comment portion -- oh, sorry.
18 I'm supposed to give it over to you, Mareesa.

19 MS. SINGLETON: Luck Stone Corporation Luck Saluda has
20 applied to the department for an air construction
21 permit to install and operate a new aggregate mine
22 and processing plant. A draft permit and draft
23 statement of basis have been written outlining the
24 proposed project and applicable regulations. This
25 permit will enable the facility to construct and

1 operate in compliance with state and federal air
2 quality regulations. The permit includes federally
3 enforceable facility-wide limits to -- to remain
4 below major source thresholds for both the Title V
5 operating permit and the prevention of significant
6 deterioration regulations. The limits are less
7 than 250 tons per year of particulate matter and
8 less than 100 tons per year of particulate matter
9 emissions, less than ten microns.

10 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you. Now, as we
11 transition into the comment portion of this public
12 hearing, I would like to reiterate that DHEC staff
13 are here to listen to your comments about the
14 proposed Saluda Quarry. Answers or responses to
15 questions will not be provided tonight. All
16 comments made during this hearing are being
17 recorded. If you are unable to complete your
18 comments within the allotted time, you may submit
19 them in writing through the end of the public
20 comment period on Friday, December 15, 2023, by e-
21 permitting, e-mail, or mail. I will now call on
22 those of you who indicated during preregistration
23 that you would like to make a comment.

24 After I call your name, I would ask that you
25 come up to the center of the aisle right here

1 because our court reporter has a recorder so we can
2 make sure we get your comments on record. And once
3 you do that, please state and spell your name for
4 the court reporter prior to speaking and state the
5 county in which you live.

6 At this time, we will begin with Jared
7 Matthews. Is that correct?

8 MR. MATTHEWS: My name is Jared Matthews. J-A-R-E-D
9 M-A-T-T-H-E-W-S. I live right next door to this
10 proposed quarry, 4578 Double Bridges Road. I
11 really don't have a problem with rock quarries. I
12 do not have a problem with Luck -- Luck Quarry
13 company. I do not have a problem with those. I do
14 not have a problem with Vulcan or Martin Marietta.
15 I do not have a problem with quarries themselves.

16 I am very disappointed with the lack of
17 correspondence with the citizens of the surrounding
18 areas such as Saluda, the community from DHEC, and
19 DOT not being here, any company that would have to
20 get permits or would be responsible for answering
21 questions such as the road quality and any other
22 thing. I'm very disappointed with the lack of
23 people being here other than DHEC and the company
24 itself.

25 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you, Mr. Matthews. At

1 this time I would like to call Nelda Rikard.

2 MS. RIKARD: I no longer wish to speak.

3 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you, Ms. Rikard. I will
4 now call Sonya Cary.

5 MS. CARY: I did speak during the public question-and-
6 answer session, so I should -- you want me to stand
7 up?

8 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Yes, ma'am. Please, if you'll
9 just come to the center of the aisle so we can have
10 the recorder pick up what you're commenting on.

11 MS. CARY: I'm Sonya Cary. I do own -- Sonya,
12 S-O-N-Y-A, Cary, C-A-R-Y. I do own property within
13 the vicinity here. It is not right next door.
14 It's not that close. I think Mr. Matthews was
15 right. I think if this had not been such a
16 surprise to so many people, it might have been
17 better, a little bit more well received. But,
18 you know, it doesn't seem that there was a lot
19 in place that would require those -- those
20 comments to the public. But I think that now
21 that you're going to be here, I don't think
22 anybody really wants a mine to be their next
23 door neighbor. So I would think that it would
24 be the responsibility of the mine to invest in
25 the schools, the counties, and to do an awful

1 lot to build public trust and to help these
2 counties benefit from you being here. Not
3 just -- not just the fact that it's a tax
4 base, but get invested in your counties and
5 your school districts, because that's going to
6 make the difference about how well you are
7 received and what your relationship is going
8 to be.

9 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you, Ms. Cary.

10 MS. CARY: You're welcome.

11 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: I would now like to call
12 Michael Boozer. You pass? Okay. Thank you,
13 Mr. Boozer. And Ms. Doris Hicks.

14 MS. HICKS: Thank you. I am Doris Hicks, D-O-R-I-S
15 H-I-C-K-S. I am the pastor of Wesley Chapel
16 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. And my
17 comments are as follows. I'd like to share with
18 you that the representatives of Luck Stone that I
19 have encountered and met have been friendly and
20 forthcoming with information regarding the company
21 and their intent for Saluda County. Also, I'm
22 impressed with the opportunity that they present to
23 provide jobs for residents here, and I am also
24 looking forward to and impressed with their ability
25 to provide products that our roads may be improved.

1 They also have expressed desire to impact our
2 community in terms of schools and churches, etc.

3 They are my comments.

4 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you, Ms. Hicks. That
5 concludes everyone who preregistered to make a
6 comment. So we will now begin hearing from those
7 of you who did not preregister to speak, but have
8 decided to make a comment. Please raise your hand
9 to indicate that you would like to make a comment.
10 Okay. Well, it looks like I have called on
11 everyone that registered and no one -- oh, you do?

12 MS. HALLMAN: My name is Katie Coleman K-A-T-T-I-E
13 H-A-L-L-M-A-N. I live in the vicinity of where the
14 quarry will take place. Like Ms. Hicks, I'd like
15 to say I've met with several of the people that
16 work with Luck Companies. I do believe they have a
17 desire to give back to the community. They've
18 already been involved with talking to emergency
19 services, seeing how they can help there, how they
20 can be utilized. And I know there's a lot of --
21 they've reached out to find out where in the
22 community things can be bettered. And so I think
23 this is a great opportunity for Saluda County who
24 is in need of having industry come in to take hold
25 of this and just welcome them in and just enjoy

1 having them here. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you. Anyone else?

3 Katie, you would like to make a comment?

4 MS. KOSLOSKI: Yes. My name is Katie Kosloski,

5 K-A-T-I-E K-O-S-L-O-S-K-I, and I just wanted to

6 thank DHEC for your time and attention to this

7 matter leading up to this event and tonight, and

8 also wanted to thank each of the members that have

9 taken time to be here tonight. We hear your

10 comments. We look forward to -- to addressing them

11 in the future and not only meeting, but exceeding

12 your expectations as an operator, as an active and

13 engaged member of the community. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER BLALOCK: Thank you. Anyone else that

15 would like to make -- to make a comment on the

16 record?

17 Okay. Since there are no other attendees who

18 would like to make a comment, the comment portion

19 of tonight's public hearing is concluded. On

20 behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank everyone for

21 joining us tonight and giving your comments. DHEC

22 will review all comments received by December 15,

23 2023, and may request additional information from

24 the applicant if necessary. A decision will then

25 be made to approve or deny an individual mine

1 operating permit.

2 Once a final permit decision is made, DHEC
3 will provide notification to all who registered or
4 attended this public hearing and all who provided
5 written comments during the public comment period.
6 The final permit decision will also be posted on
7 our web page. A summary response to all comments
8 received will be provided if an individual mine
9 permit is approved for this Luck Saluda mine. You
10 have the right to request a final review of any
11 permit decision made by DHEC. The final review
12 request must be submitted in writing to DHEC's
13 Clerk of the Board, along with a filing fee in the
14 amount of \$100 within 15 days after notice of
15 DHEC's permit decision has been mailed. In
16 consideration of this requirement, you will receive
17 notification of DHEC's permit decision by standard
18 US mail or by e-mail. If you wish to be notified
19 of DHEC's decision by certified mail instead,
20 please make your request in writing no later than
21 December 15, 2023.

22 Finally, if you have questions or if you are
23 interested in discussing specific aspects of the
24 Luke Saluda mine -- Luck Saluda mine, please reach
25 out to Sarah Harris at 803-898-3887 or Mareesa

1 Singleton at 803-898-4113; they will be happy to
2 begin a conversation with you.

3 On behalf of DHEC, thank you for your
4 attendance and comments this evening. The time is
5 now 7:38 p.m., and this hearing is officially
6 adjourned. Good night.

7 (Whereupon, at 7:38 p.m., the public
8 hearing of the above-entitled matter
9 was concluded)

10 (*This transcript may contain quoted material.
11 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted
12 by the speaker.)

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