



Transcript of  
Hearing

8/20/2020

Enviva Pellets Greenwood, LLC (Enviva) - Draft Air  
Synthetic Minor Construction  
PUBLIC NOTICE #20-046-TV-C-H

**COPY**

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY (BAQ)

State of South Carolina	)	
County of Greenwood	)	Transcript of
	)	Public Hearing
	)	
In Re: Notice of a	)	Public Notice #
Draft Air Synthetic Minor	)	20-046-TV-C-H
Construction Permit	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

Date: August 20, 2020

Time: 6:31 p.m.

Location: Via Remote Videoconference and/or  
Teleconference

Reported by  
Alison N. Peterson

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APPEARANCES

DHEC officials present:

Monica Taylor  
Lawra Boyce  
Sean Briggs  
Kristy Ellenberg  
Katherine Yon

Speakers from the public:

Tandy Taylor	Trip Chavis
Charles McKinney	Croft Hollingsworth
Tammy Gettys	Chief Parr
Wendi Andrews	Loretta Slater
Ken Coffey	Alectron Dorfman
Donald Rhodes	Erniko Brown
James C. Sanders, Jr.	Elizabeth Kress
Cam Crawford	Patrick Anderson
Gary Harbour, Ph.D.	Jimmy Corley
Art Bush	Stephen Stroud
Lucia Ibarra	Jaime Wisegarver
Sabrina Miller	Brad Thompson
Tim Adams	Xavier Boatright
Ken Leach	Pamela Greenlaw
Rev. Leo Woodberry	Kim Cesafsky
Rev. Dallas Conyers	Michael Meetze
Chris Brown	Varis Woodberry
Heather Hillaker	Jim Potts
Luke Penney	Kayla Livingston
Annemarie Humm	Dr. Florence Anoruo

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: I want to  
3 welcome you all here. Thank you for joining us  
4 for DHEC's virtual public hearing for the draft  
5 air construction permit for Enviva Pellets  
6 Greenwood, LLC. I am Lawra Boyce. I am the  
7 community engagement coordinator for DHEC's office  
8 of environmental affairs. I will serve as the  
9 technology host tonight, and there are also  
10 several other people on our tech team assisting  
11 me. I will ask them to introduce themselves.

12 MR. BRIGGS: Hello, everyone. This is  
13 Sean Briggs.

14 MS. ELLENBERG: Hello, everybody. This  
15 is Kristy Ellenberg.

16 MS. YON: Good evening. This is  
17 Katherine Yon.

18 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Great. Thanks,  
19 guys.

20 We are using this technology to provide  
21 opportunities for continued participation in all  
22 of our decision-making processes while we do our  
23 part to reduce the spread of Coronavirus by  
24 following current federal and state guidelines  
25 that promote social distancing. We want to hear

1 from all of you, especially those who are  
2 interested. But as the state's public health  
3 agency, we must make public health and safety a  
4 priority. We do encourage you to help stop the  
5 spread of COVID by washing your hands, staying at  
6 home when you're sick, covering any coughs and  
7 keeping surfaces clean. And, most importantly, we  
8 encourage you to stay up to date and stay informed  
9 of COVID-19 by visiting our web page,  
10 [scdhec.gov/covid19](https://scdhec.gov/covid19).

11 Your participation is very important to  
12 us tonight so we have gone to extensive efforts to  
13 ensure that anyone who's interested in engaging  
14 with us has the ability to do so. We are  
15 continuing to evaluate these tools and  
16 accommodations, and we welcome your input on how  
17 we may be able to improve your experience with  
18 virtual participation. So please give us your  
19 thoughts in a feedback survey that will be posted  
20 on our web page after tonight's hearing.

21 In order to maximize your experience  
22 tonight, we do encourage you to close other  
23 applications that may be running on your computer  
24 and turn off any other streaming services or  
25 devices at your location for the duration of the

1 virtual hearing. As I've mentioned before, all of  
2 your lines have been muted in order to minimize  
3 background noise and echoing so that everyone can  
4 hear the presenters. We ask that you please keep  
5 your lines muted until after the presentation,  
6 when we will provide instructions on how to unmute  
7 if you'd like to make a comment.

8 The virtual hearing will be recorded,  
9 and the recording will be placed on our web page  
10 in the next few days. We have started the  
11 recording.

12 Monica Taylor will be serving as your  
13 hearing officer tonight, and I will assist after  
14 the presentation with additional instructions for  
15 the comment portion of the hearing.

16 Okay, Monica. If you are ready, I  
17 think we can go ahead and get started.

18 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
19 Lawra. The time is now 6:34 p.m., on Thursday,  
20 August 20th, 2020. And this public hearing  
21 regarding Enviva Pellet Greenwood, LLC, Draft  
22 Synthetic Runner Air Construction Permit,  
23 Number 1240-0133-CC, will now begin.

24 My name is Monica Taylor. I'm the  
25 public participation coordinator for DHEC's Bureau

1 of Air Quality. I will be serving as the hearing  
2 officer for tonight's virtual hearing. Thank you  
3 all for taking the time to join us this evening.  
4 This hearing is being held by South Carolina  
5 Department of Health and Environmental Control,  
6 also known as DHEC, to accept oral comments on  
7 Enviva Pellet Greenwood, LLC, draft synthetic  
8 minor air construction permit. DHEC is currently  
9 in technical review of the synthetic minor air  
10 construction permit, in which Enviva is required  
11 to obtain in order to complete the proposed  
12 project. Tonight's hearing is part of DHEC's  
13 technical review.

14 We are now on our agenda for this  
15 evening.

16 So far we have completed instructions  
17 for remote participation. Now, I will ask the  
18 court reporter for the public hearing to introduce  
19 herself at this time.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Hello. My name is  
21 Ali Peterson, and I will be the court reporter  
22 this evening.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
24 Ali.

25 Ms. Peterson is recording everything

1 that is said during this public hearing. She will  
2 later prepare a written transcript that will be  
3 included in DHEC's official record for Enviva  
4 proposed project.

5 DHEC has established a web page for  
6 access to information and documents related to the  
7 proposed project. The web page can be found at  
8 [www.scdhec.gov/enviva](http://www.scdhec.gov/enviva). The presentation you will  
9 see tonight is posted on the web page. A  
10 recording of the transcript of this hearing will  
11 also be available on the web page before the close  
12 of the comment period.

13 If you have not already done so, we  
14 encourage you to go to the web page by close of  
15 business tomorrow and complete the online  
16 registration form for this hearing. This will let  
17 us know how to notify you of DHEC's decision on  
18 the proposed project. Again, the registration  
19 form will remain open through close of business  
20 tomorrow.

21 Your comments are a very important part  
22 of DHEC's permitting process. The information you  
23 share will be reviewed and could provide DHEC  
24 staff with additional information to consider when  
25 making the final decision. A final decision on

1 the proposed project has not yet been made and  
2 will not be made here tonight. The purpose of  
3 this hearing is for you to provide additional  
4 comments before a final decision is made. DHEC  
5 welcomes and encourage your comments through the  
6 end of the public comment period.

7 Before our presentation begins, here  
8 are just a few ground rules for tonight's hearing.  
9 In order for this hearing to proceed in an  
10 efficient and timely manner, the following  
11 guidelines have been established:

12 Tonight we will not be answering  
13 questions. The purpose of the public hearing is  
14 to present an overview of the proposed project and  
15 allow for oral comments to be officially received  
16 for the record.

17 So that everyone has an opportunity to  
18 speak, your comments should not go over three  
19 minutes. At the end of the three minutes, a chime  
20 will sound and we ask that you finish your  
21 thoughts so that we may be able to have time for  
22 all who have requested to speak tonight. If you  
23 are not able to complete your comments within the  
24 allotted time, you may also submit them in writing  
25 before the end of the public comment period. We

1 will provide the link for submitting written  
2 comments at the end of the presentation.

3 Please keep in mind any comments made  
4 via the chat box during tonight's public hearing  
5 will not serve as an official comment on record,  
6 and the agency will not respond to any written  
7 comments posted in the chat box. However,  
8 anything typed in the chat box is subject to be  
9 included in the record of the public hearing.

10 Please be respectful of those  
11 presenting information or making comments and  
12 allow the time limit that has been set. Each  
13 person has the right to participate tonight, and  
14 no one comment is more important than another.  
15 Everyone who wishes to make a comment will be  
16 given an equal opportunity to do so.

17 And, finally, please do not interrupt  
18 or ask other participants or DHEC staff to respond  
19 to comments during tonight's hearing. Should any  
20 comments or actions begin to distract from the  
21 intent of this hearing, the speaker may be placed  
22 on mute or removed from the online platform.

23 The order of tonight's public hearing  
24 will go as follows:

25 An overview of Enviva's Pellet

1 Greenwood, LLC, proposed project will be provided  
2 tonight by DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality permit  
3 writer, Jo Anna Cunningham.

4           Following Jo Anna's presentation, we  
5 will begin calling on those who have indicated  
6 during preregistration that you would like to make  
7 a comment. If you have decided that you no longer  
8 wish to speak, when you are called on, you may  
9 decline at that time.

10           When we have finished hearing from  
11 everyone who has preregistered to speak, those who  
12 did not preregister will have the opportunity to  
13 provide an oral comment as well. At that time,  
14 our tech host will give instructions on how to  
15 comment from your remote location.

16           Please remember, the focus of this  
17 public hearing is on Enviva's proposed project,  
18 and a final decision will not be made here  
19 tonight, nor will it be based upon how many people  
20 express the same concerns.

21           We will now turn it over to Jo Anna  
22 Cunningham for an overview of the proposed  
23 project. Jo Anna?

24           MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Monica.

25           Good evening. My name is Jo Anna

1 Cunningham. I've been a permit writer with SC  
2 DHEC Bureau of Air Quality Permitting Division  
3 since 2001. I am the air permit writer assigned  
4 to the Enviva Greenwood, LLC, project, herein  
5 referred to as Enviva Greenwood.

6 I am now on the slide titled  
7 "Permitting Process." The permitting process  
8 starts when an application is received and  
9 reviewed for technical completeness to ensure the  
10 project will be in compliance with all applicable  
11 regulations. Once the application has been  
12 reviewed for technical completeness, the  
13 department determines which type of permit is  
14 required. For example, minor permit, major permit  
15 or synthetic minor permit. The permit is drafted  
16 with all of the applicable regulations.

17 There is an opportunity for public  
18 input to ensure that all interested persons have  
19 an opportunity to provide input on the project.  
20 We are currently at this stage in the process.  
21 Once all of these steps are complete, final permit  
22 decision is made.

23 I am now on the slide titled "Site  
24 Overview." The facility was originally built and  
25 operated by Colombo Energy starting on

1 September 22nd, 2016. Enviva Greenwood purchased  
2 and began operating the facility on March 7th,  
3 2018. Enviva Greenwood is a wood pellet  
4 manufacturing facility. The facility produces  
5 wood pellets that are used for fuel in industrial  
6 boilers.

7 I am now on Slide 9, the Site Location  
8 Map. This is a map showing the location of the  
9 site. The Enviva Greenwood operations are  
10 outlined in yellow. The facility is located at  
11 200 Enviva Way, Greenwood, South Carolina 29646.

12 I am now on the slide titled "Proposed  
13 Project Overview." Enviva Greenwood submitted an  
14 air construction permit application on  
15 February 10th, 2020, for which the purpose is  
16 two-fold: one, to reduce particulate matter, dust  
17 emissions; and, two, increase production. The  
18 particulate matter emissions will be reduced  
19 through the addition of more efficient process  
20 equipment, pollution control device upgrades, and  
21 the addition of new particulate control equipment.

22 The potential to emit of particulate  
23 matter emissions before the proposed construction  
24 permit have been calculated as 174 tons per year.  
25 The emissions are based on the current permitted

1 production limit and the operation of the  
2 particulate matter control devices.

3 The potential to emit of particulate  
4 matter emissions after the proposed construction  
5 project have been calculated as 168 tons per year.  
6 The emissions are based on operation of the  
7 new/updated particulate matter control devices,  
8 implementation of the particulate matter reduction  
9 strategies, and accounts for the proposed increase  
10 in production to 660,000 oven-dried tons per year,  
11 a 25 percent increase.

12 I am now on the slide titled "Dry  
13 Hammermills." The picture on the left shows an  
14 example of a -- of horizontal dry hammermills,  
15 which are existing equipment at the facility. The  
16 picture on the right shows an example of a hammer  
17 that is inside a vertical dry hammermill, which is  
18 proposed equipment for this construction project.

19 I am now on Slide 12. Proposed  
20 particulate dust reduction strategies include  
21 replacing the older, less efficient, horizontal  
22 dry hammermills with new, efficient, vertical dry  
23 hammermills. Unlike the horizontal dry  
24 hammermills, the new vertical dry hammermills are  
25 designed with screens to ensure proper sizing of

1 the incoming wood chips, use gravity to drop the  
2 wood chips into a receiving throat and transfer to  
3 a conveyer. In addition, the hammers, which are  
4 encased within a metal housing, have the  
5 capability to rotate in a direction which enables  
6 them to efficiently reduce the size of the wood  
7 chips. Their design features will result in less  
8 particulate matter generated as the wood chips are  
9 processed.

10 The existing wet electrostatic  
11 precipitator (WESP) will replace specific  
12 cyclofilters to remove particulate matter (PM)  
13 from the new vertical dry hammermills. The WESP  
14 uses electrostatic forces to remove particulate  
15 matter from the process prior to venting clean air  
16 to the atmosphere. It currently controls  
17 particulate matter from the existing equipment:  
18 green hammermills 1 through 4, green chip silo,  
19 furnace, and the rotary dryer. The pollution  
20 control efficiency of a WESP is better than that  
21 of a cyclofilter, which is currently used at the  
22 facility.

23 The proposed project includes the  
24 addition of a second particulate matter control  
25 device for the vertical dry hammermills, a bin

1 vent filter, which will be in series with the  
2 WESP, and this will allow the process airstream to  
3 flow through two separate devices before venting  
4 to the ambient air.

5 For the proposed project, volatile  
6 organic compounds (VOCs) emissions from the  
7 vertical dry hammermills will be controlled by the  
8 existing regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO),  
9 which will result in a decrease in facility-wide  
10 actual VOCs emissions. I will speak more about  
11 the pollution control equipment later in the  
12 presentation.

13 I am now on Slide 13. The project  
14 includes the addition of three pelletizers, which  
15 is where the wood pellets are formed; one pellet  
16 cooler, which is where the wood pellets are  
17 cooled; and a new PM control device, a baghouse.  
18 The picture on the lower left in the bottom left  
19 corner of the picture is an example of  
20 pelletizers. The picture on the lower is an  
21 example of baghouses.

22 I am now on the slide titled "Green  
23 Hammermill." There will be the addition of one  
24 green hammermill. Green hammermills are equipment  
25 located near the beginning of the wood pellet

1 manufacturing process. The green hammermills  
2 reduce the wood chip size before the wood chips  
3 proceed to the drying operations.

4 PM emissions from the new green  
5 hammermill will be controlled by the existing  
6 particulate matter control device, WESP. And VOC  
7 emissions will be controlled by the existing VOC  
8 destruction equipment, regenerative thermal  
9 oxidizer (RTO).

10 I am now on the slide titled "Summary  
11 of Proposed Changes." A summary of proposed  
12 changes are as follows:

13 Replace five existing dry hammermills  
14 with 36 new dry hammermills which have improved  
15 efficiency for reducing the wood chip size. The  
16 emissions from the dry hammermills will be routed  
17 to the existing wet electrostatic precipitator  
18 (WESP) to control particulate matter emissions and  
19 to the existing regenerative thermal oxidizer,  
20 also known as an RTO or incinerator, to control  
21 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions.

22 Addition of a second PM control device  
23 for the dry hammermills, bin vent filter.

24 Addition of three pelletizers, one  
25 pellet cooler, and a new baghouse.

1                   Addition of one green hammermill.  
2                   PM emissions will be controlled by the  
3 existing WESP, and VOC emissions will be  
4 controlled by the existing VOC destruction device,  
5 RTO.

6                   I am now on Slide 16. All process  
7 emissions at Enviva Greenwood are routed to  
8 control devices. This is a summary of Enviva  
9 Greenwood's pollution control equipment:

10                   Wet electrostatic precipitator (WESP).  
11 As mentioned earlier, a WESP is a control device  
12 which uses electrostatic forces to remove  
13 particulate matter from the process prior to  
14 venting clean air to the atmosphere.

15                   Baghouses; baghouses with integrated  
16 cyclones; cyclone; and bin vent filters, which are  
17 pollution control devices that use fabric filter  
18 media to capture and remove particulate matter  
19 from the process prior to venting clean air to the  
20 atmosphere.

21                   Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)  
22 destruction equipment consisting of a regenerative  
23 thermal oxidizer (RTO) and regenerative catalytic  
24 oxidizers (RCOs). The RTO and RCOs are pollution  
25 control devices which incinerate volatile organic

1 compounds. VOCs are compounds that easily become  
2 vapors or gases. The proposed project will modify  
3 the existing RTO and RCOs to reflect Enviva  
4 Greenwood's final engineering design. As such,  
5 they will have a greater heat input capacity for  
6 VOC destruction.

7 I am now on the slide titled "Air  
8 Quality Analysis." As mentioned earlier, as part  
9 of the air permitting process, the facility is  
10 also required to demonstrate compliance with  
11 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for  
12 particulate less than 10 microns and less than 2.5  
13 microns. These standards are established to be  
14 protective of public health and welfare.

15 Enviva Greenwood's compliance  
16 demonstration with the standards for PM10 and  
17 PM2.5 was completed using an EPA-approved model,  
18 AERMOD, assuming the facility was operating all of  
19 its equipment at full capacity 24 hours per day,  
20 every day of the year. Based on the compliance  
21 demonstration conducted, the facility meets these  
22 standards, as well as standards for all other  
23 emitted, regulated pollutants, including both  
24 criteria and air toxic pollutants.

25 I am now on the slide titled "Draft Air

1 Construction Permit Regulatory Requirements."  
2 State and federal regulations have established  
3 standards that are protective of the environment  
4 and public health, including the health of  
5 sensitive populations such as asthmatics,  
6 children, and the elderly. The permit contains  
7 the applicable limits and regulations from all  
8 applicable federal and state air regulations. The  
9 applicable state and federal regulations for the  
10 Enviva Greenwood operations are as listed.

11 Note that the fugitive dust regulation  
12 includes dust emissions from storage piles and  
13 on-site traffic.

14 I am now on the slide titled "Draft Air  
15 Construction Permit Limits." Enviva Greenwood  
16 currently operates as a synthetic minor source of  
17 emissions. Federally enforceable limits have been  
18 established to limit criteria pollutants PM, PM10,  
19 PM2.5, and VOCs emissions to less than 250 tons  
20 per year each pollutant and less than 10 tons per  
21 year for any single HAP and less than 25 tons per  
22 year for total combined HAPs. These previously  
23 established limits will remain in place.

24 In addition, with this proposed project  
25 a production limit of 660,000 oven-dried tons per

1 year will be established to ensure that the  
2 facility retains its status as a synthetic minor  
3 source of emissions.

4 I am now on the slide titled "Draft Air  
5 Construction Permit Requirements." The draft  
6 construction permit contains a requirement that  
7 the facility shall maintain the current permitted  
8 production rate until all control device upgrades  
9 and additions have been completed. The draft air  
10 construction permit also contains adequate  
11 monitoring to ensure compliance with all  
12 applicable permit limits and requirements. The  
13 draft air construction permit also contains  
14 requirements for source tests to be conducted  
15 annually and every five years.

16 Additionally, the draft air  
17 construction permit requires the facility to  
18 calculate and submit semiannual reports of  
19 emissions and production amounts. The draft  
20 construction permit also contains a requirement to  
21 follow the site's existing dust control plan,  
22 which I will explain further on the next slide.

23 I am now on the slide titled "Dust  
24 Control Plan." Details regarding the dust control  
25 plan includes steps to minimize fugitive

1 particulate matter, dust, generated on site from  
2 going beyond facility property boundaries.

3           Written procedures, training plans, and  
4 a maintenance schedule for all particulate matter  
5 control equipment and process systems.

6           Use of a water truck on on-site roads.

7           And the dust control plan is required  
8 to be reviewed, reassessed, and updated when  
9 needed.

10           I am now on Slide 22. At the request  
11 of community members, there are two particulate  
12 matter air sensors testing concentrations in the  
13 community in order to determine the particulate  
14 matter trends. One of the sensors also monitors  
15 for metrological data such as wind speed and  
16 relative humidity.

17           Air sensors are small, relatively  
18 inexpensive air samplers. Unlike SC DHEC's large  
19 ambient air monitors, which meet strict federal  
20 guidelines, the air sensors only give a general  
21 overall look at whether certain pollutants are  
22 present. SC DHEC looks at the trends to see if  
23 there may be potential problems. The air sensors  
24 can only determine if a pollutant is or is not  
25 present. Since a physical sample is not obtained,

1 SC DHEC can't determine the origin of the PM.

2 I am now on the slide titled "Ambient  
3 Sensor Data." In both pictures, the orange line  
4 represents the air quality PM standard. The blue  
5 wavy line beneath the orange line represents the  
6 actual sensor readings for the time period  
7 indicated. As noted, trends from both sensors are  
8 below the air quality PM standard.

9 I am now on the slide titled  
10 "Compliance Status." In December 2018 through  
11 March 2019, a series of stack tests were  
12 performed. The results indicated that Enviva  
13 Greenwood operations were in compliance with the  
14 emission limits.

15 In 2019, SC DHEC conducted several  
16 inspections of the facility's operations. The  
17 facility was cited for several permit and  
18 regulatory violations.

19 In January 2020, the facility was  
20 issued a Notice of Alleged Violation and Notice of  
21 Enforcement Conference.

22 In July 2020, a consent order, which  
23 included a civil penalty of \$13,000, was executed.  
24 The order also required an updated dust control  
25 plan be submitted to the department by

1 August 16th, 2020. The updated dust control plan  
2 was submitted on time. The full consent order and  
3 penalty details can be viewed by going to the  
4 Enviva web page on the DHEC website.

5 I am now on the slide titled "Next  
6 Steps." The next steps are DHEC will review all  
7 comments received, provide written responses to  
8 all comments, and make a final decision. The  
9 final decision date begins the 15-day appeal  
10 period.

11 I am now on the slide titled "DHEC  
12 Contacts." If you have any questions about the  
13 proposed project, please let me know. My contact  
14 information is on the screen. If you prefer to  
15 speak to someone locally, you can contact Samuel  
16 Madden in our Greenwood office. His contact  
17 information is also on the screen.

18 I am now on the slide titled "How to  
19 Comment." Comments can be submitted by mail or  
20 e-mail through August 27th, 2020, to BAQ's public  
21 notice coordinator, DHEC/BAQ. That's D-H-E-C  
22 forward slash B-A-Q; 2600 Bull Street, Columbia,  
23 South Carolina 29201. And e-mail at  
24 airpncomments@dhec.sc.gov. That's A-I-R P-N  
25 C-O-M-M-E-N-T-S at D-H-E-C dot S-C dot G-O-V. The

1 application and draft permit can be found at  
2 [www.scdhec.gov/enviva](http://www.scdhec.gov/enviva). That's W-W-W dot S-C  
3 D-H-E-C dot G-O-V forward slash E-N-V-I-V-A.

4 Thank you for your time and  
5 participation in this evening's public hearing.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Jo Anna, thank  
7 you for providing us with that great overview.

8 I would also like to mention if you  
9 have any issues viewing the presentation, a copy  
10 of the full presentation is also available on our  
11 website at [www.scdhec.gov/enviva](http://www.scdhec.gov/enviva).

12 I will now call on those of you who  
13 have indicated during our preregistration that you  
14 would like to make a comment. When it is your  
15 turn, clearly state and spell your name and  
16 identify any organizations or group you are  
17 providing your comment on behalf of. Remember to  
18 unmute your line by clicking the microphone on  
19 your screen or by using star six. If you are  
20 joining us by phone, please remember that you will  
21 have three minutes' limit to present your  
22 comments. At the end of the three minutes, a  
23 chime will sound, and we will ask you to finish  
24 those final thoughts so we may be able to have  
25 time for all who have requested to speak tonight.

1 I will start by calling on Tandy  
2 Taylor. Tandy, please unmute.

3 MS. TAYLOR: Hello, this is Tandy  
4 Taylor. Can you hear me?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, I can.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
7 hear you well.

8 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. Great. Thank you.  
9 I'm connecting by telephone today, and so it's a  
10 little harder to know what I'm doing.

11 Thank you so much for allowing me the  
12 opportunity to speak today. My name is Tandy  
13 Taylor, and I am associate pastor at Triune Mercy  
14 Center, a church for the homeless in Greenville.  
15 I'm also vice chair of the local chapter of the  
16 Climate Reality Project, which has more than 500  
17 members in the -- in ten counties across the  
18 Upstate. I speak on their behalf today.

19 While I applaud the installation of new  
20 equipment that is in this permit, I urge you to  
21 deny any expansion of the wood pellet industry in  
22 South Carolina. Two of our primary assets as a  
23 state are our people and our natural resources.  
24 Enviva's proposed increase in operations will not  
25 only endanger the health of nearby residents but

1 also destroy much of our forestland. Neighbors of  
2 the plan report that they cannot sit out in their  
3 yards without being covered in sawdust. Even with  
4 staying indoors, the tiny particulates of sawdust  
5 end up in their lungs. These residents may  
6 appreciate the good-paying jobs now, but they will  
7 pay a high price later in health impacts and  
8 medical bills.

9           And I also want to point out that  
10 Enviva is not using primarily lumbar yard scraps  
11 or trees that have to be cut down anyway for  
12 thinning the forests. They clearcut mature  
13 forests. This has been documented by people  
14 following the logging trucks out of the forest and  
15 to the Enviva plant. We cannot allow them to  
16 continue cutting down the magnificent forests of  
17 our state.

18           The trees are worth much more to us as  
19 a living forest than as single-use wood pellets.  
20 Forests absorb carbon, so they are a major piece  
21 of the puzzle on addressing the high levels of  
22 carbon in our atmosphere. We need to be planting  
23 more forests, not cutting down the ones we have.  
24 Forests also provide rain retention so that  
25 there's less risk of flooding when heavy rains

1     come, as they are doing more and more frequently  
2     now in our area. We need for our forests to stay  
3     intact.

4                     Before you consider approving Enviva's  
5     permit request, I urge you to complete a full  
6     environmental justice report, including analysis  
7     of all the potential harm to forests and climate  
8     as well as the health and wellbeing of residents.  
9     And I call on you to educate yourself on the wood  
10    pellet industry by watching the documentary  
11    entitled "BURNED: Are Trees the New Coal?" The  
12    link to that documentary is  
13    [www.burnedthemovie.com](http://www.burnedthemovie.com).

14                    On many different fronts, Enviva's  
15    request to expand their operations makes no sense  
16    at all. Please deny their permit. Thank you so  
17    much for allowing me to speak tonight.

18                    HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
19    Ms. Taylor. Thank you for your comment.

20                    We would also like to mention as a  
21    reminder, if you are not called upon to speak at  
22    the moment, could you please leave all mics muted.  
23    When it's your turn to leave a comment, we will  
24    ask you to unmute your mic at that time.

25                    We will now call on Charles McKinney.

1 Mr. McKinney, if you are muted, please unmute your  
2 mic by -- if you are connecting through your  
3 computer, you can do so by tapping the microphone.  
4 If you are on the phone, you can do so by pressing  
5 star six.

6 MR. MCKINNEY: I'm on the phone.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Great. We can  
8 hear you well.

9 MR. MCKINNEY: Hello?

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
11 Please proceed.

12 MR. MCKINNEY: Can you hear me?

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, sir. We  
14 can indeed hear you. If you will start by stating  
15 your name and spelling it and leaving your  
16 comments.

17 MR. MCKINNEY: Charles Wagner McKinney,  
18 Senior; C-H-A-R-L-E-S W-A-G-N-E-R M-C-K-I-N-N-E-Y  
19 S-R. I am president of Laurens County Forest  
20 Landowners Association, a membership of some 90  
21 forest landowners. Our association members are  
22 active participants in South Carolina's largest  
23 industry, the \$21 billion forestry industry. Our  
24 industry is a primary contributor for the  
25 steadiness of our standing forests, the clean air

1 quality, the clean water, and the thriving  
2 communities of our state.

3           As a result of an evolving -- where  
4 we're in a society wherein families have been  
5 forced to adopt and adapt their farming practices  
6 in order to retain their family property, our  
7 state in the southeast have more standing acres of  
8 timber than at any time in our recorded history.  
9 This standing acreage of timber, referred to as  
10 the "wall of wood" is the product of forestry  
11 associations of the local, state, and regional  
12 levels united in recruiting individuals to join in  
13 the stewardship and management of our woodlands  
14 through a committed and approved plan of action.  
15 Although well regulated with this wall of wood,  
16 the timber industry is in a period of low prices.  
17 A source of demand is essential for the  
18 competitive and orderly harvest that ensures the  
19 health of our forests.

20           We are here today to put input toward a  
21 regulatory decision you will make concerning  
22 Envira's request in for an air quality permit  
23 allowing the upgrading of this dry hammermills  
24 with modernized air quality instrumentation and  
25 its being allowed to increase its production

1 capability. This is vital to the current physical  
2 condition of the forestry industry.

3 Envira's not an industry isolated into  
4 itself. It is immersed in the local community,  
5 supporting many community activities. Since  
6 assuming control of the Greenwood facility from  
7 Colombo Energy in 2018, Envira has communicated  
8 with the surrounding community and continuously  
9 worked at improving the operation at this  
10 facility.

11 Envira's request for a new air quality  
12 permit, the upgrading of its dry hammermills with  
13 modernized air quality instrumentation to assure a  
14 cleaner environment and the request for an  
15 increase in production capability, should be  
16 approved, and we thank you very much.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

18 We will now call on Tammy Gettys.  
19 Ms. Gettys, if you could unmute your microphone.

20 MS. GETTYS: Yes.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: You may start  
22 by stating your name and spelling it as well as.  
23 Thank you.

24 MS. GETTYS: Hello. My name is Tammy  
25 Gettys, T-A-M-M-Y G-E-T-T-Y-S. I am here today to

1 let DHEC know that there is definitely a problem  
2 with wood fine, wood fines, and groundwood from  
3 the Enviva operations. I submitted a report of a  
4 sample analysis that was taken of the wood that  
5 came from my pool and from my deck, and those  
6 samples came back as being groundwood and wood  
7 fines from Enviva's operations. They said another  
8 possible source, it could have been trafficked  
9 from a nearby road. But my nearby road traffic, I  
10 have brush that's high enough that would cover  
11 that. The pollution, wood fine and the wood dust,  
12 is coming over the woods through some trees here,  
13 getting right into my property going up my entire  
14 neighborhood.

15 And I'm here, you know, to represent  
16 the neighborhood because the wood dust is  
17 dangerous. I know it has damaged my -- some of my  
18 property. I've had to replace things. I can say,  
19 you know, they didn't want to replace everything.  
20 They wanted to try to half fix something that's  
21 half broke.

22 But other than that, we have met with  
23 Chris Brown several times from Enviva, and he has  
24 tried his best to do what he could to help us and  
25 ensure us that this permit is going to stop the

1 pollution. And I do want to believe him that it's  
2 wanting to stop, that it's going to stop this  
3 pollution. But this pollution that only -- I  
4 mean, that you can definitely see, there's a part  
5 that we can't see that it's definitely we know is  
6 in our lungs, it's going into our lungs.

7 I have reports from OSHA. I have  
8 reports from OSHA and a report from CCOHS, which  
9 list health concerns -- OSH Answers fact sheets,  
10 the health concerns of wood dust have been  
11 associated to substances in the wood, bacteria,  
12 molds, or fungi. But that wood is definitely  
13 coming definitely straight in our neighborhood.  
14 It's considered a carcinogenic to humans. And I'm  
15 reading this from off their website. It --  
16 associated with toxins. It can affect your skin,  
17 your eyes, and also it can affect --

18 (Timer sounds.)

19 MS. GETTYS: Is that three minutes?

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Ms. Gettys, it  
21 has been three minutes. If you would like to  
22 finish your thought here and your sentence --

23 MS. GETTYS: Yeah.

24 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- we will  
25 provide time or we will still provide an

1 opportunity to continue to submit your comments  
2 via a written platform, and we will provide that  
3 information after all have spoken. So please  
4 continue to finish, and we'll move on.

5 MS. GETTYS: Okay. And our concerns  
6 here are the wood, the pollution of what it's  
7 doing to our bodies -- our lungs, our bodies.

8 And what I'm asking is I have a -- I  
9 would just like for the -- what were you saying  
10 earlier, 35 percent? I was told by DHEC that it  
11 was only a 20 percent that they needed to meet.  
12 And according to my records, they're not meeting  
13 the 20 percent all the time. And I would really  
14 just ask for my neighborhood's -- that be reduced,  
15 that 35 percent should no way be that high at all.

16 And one last thing. I understood that  
17 the permit, it's a synthetic minor source, means  
18 it's exempt from the Clean Air Act's proposed --  
19 proposed 423. Well, I hope that is not the case.  
20 I do want to get that standard down lowered so we  
21 can have less pollution in our neighborhood.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
23 Thank you so much, Ms. Gettys.

24 MS. GETTYS: You're welcome.

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Again, I want

1 to remind all of the participants of our  
2 three-minute time limit in order for us to allow  
3 everyone the opportunity to leave a comment  
4 tonight. We will also be providing our web  
5 address in which you could submit your comment in  
6 writing if you do not have time to provide all of  
7 the information here tonight.

8 We would -- we'll move on. I will call  
9 on Ms. Wendi Andrews. And following Ms. Wendi,  
10 Lucia Ibarra will be following Ms. Andrews.

11 Ms. Andrews, please unmute, and you may  
12 begin by stating your name and spelling it for the  
13 record as well.

14 MS. ANDREWS: Yes. My name is Wendi  
15 Andrews. That's W-E-N-D-I; Andrews,  
16 A-N-D-R-E-W-S. I'm going to reserve my comments  
17 till later, if that's okay.

18 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, thank you.

19 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: We will move  
21 on to Ms. Lucia Ibarra. If you unmute your mic,  
22 you can begin.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you say  
24 Gerald?

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: I'm sorry. We

1 were waiting to hear from Lucia.

2 We will move on, and we will come back.

3 Or if you would like to leave a comment, there  
4 will still be an opportunity to do so after we  
5 call on all who have registered.

6 We will now move on to Ken Coffey, and  
7 then we will also hear from Donald Rhodes  
8 following that. Please unmute your mic,  
9 Mr. Coffey, and you can begin by providing your  
10 name and spelling your name for the record.

11 MR. COFFEY: Good evening. My name is  
12 Ken Coffey, K-E-N C-O-F-F-E-Y. I'm the executive  
13 director of the Self Regional Healthcare  
14 Foundation in Greenwood. And we have letters on  
15 file from me representing our foundation and also  
16 Self Regional Healthcare from Mr. Jim Pfeiffer,  
17 who is the president and CEO.

18 Aside from the obvious benefits of  
19 Enviva's \$20 million investment in the local  
20 economy in Greenwood, this project will improve  
21 efficiencies, increase production, and improve the  
22 facility's overall environmental performance.  
23 These are win-win improvements for Enviva and for  
24 Greenwood. Enviva currently provides 80-plus  
25 direct jobs and over 250 indirect jobs in the

1 region, resulting in a total economic impact of  
2 \$115 million in the Greenwood community. The  
3 increase in production that will occur if this  
4 application is approved will also provide a boost  
5 to the forest products sector by providing an  
6 increased demand for wood fiber from local forest  
7 owners, landowners, and wood suppliers.

8           Since their purchase in 19 -- in 2018,  
9 Enviva has been and is committed to being a part  
10 of the Greenwood community. Enviva participates  
11 in community events sponsored by the Greenwood  
12 Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood Partnership  
13 Alliance, Boys & Girls Club of the Lakelands  
14 Region, Self Regional Healthcare, Preserving Lake  
15 Greenwood, Piedmont Tech, and several other  
16 organizations in the region. Most importantly, at  
17 least from our perspective at the foundation, they  
18 have stepped up in a big way by making a  
19 charitable gift to Our Vision Is 2020 capital  
20 campaign that has provided for a new childbirth  
21 center and new surgery center on the campus of  
22 Self Regional.

23           Enviva is a vital part of our  
24 community. In addition to being excellent  
25 corporate citizens, it's clear that they care

1 about making a difference in the future of our  
2 community and as far as health care in our  
3 community. And we have letters on file with you  
4 all. And that would be the end of my remarks.  
5 Thank you for the opportunity.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for  
7 your comment.

8 I see that Ms. Ibarra is back in the  
9 group. I will call on her next and following will  
10 be Don Rhodes.

11 Miss Lucia, please unmute your mic.  
12 Provide your name with the spelling, and you can  
13 provide your comment.

14 Okay. I think we may still be having  
15 some technical difficulties, but we will move on  
16 and we will come back to you, Miss Lucia.

17 We will now like to hear from Donald  
18 Rhodes. Please unmute your mic. Mr. Rhodes, if  
19 you are reaching us by phone, you can do so by  
20 unmuting using star six or by hitting the  
21 microphone on the toolbar to unmute your mic, and  
22 you can provide your comments.

23 MR. RHODES: Can you hear me now?

24 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
25 hear you now. Thank you.

1                   MR. RHODES: Thank you for giving me  
2 this opportunity to talk. I was at the meeting  
3 that we had in town, and I'd like to appreciate  
4 Tammy's presentation of the wood that she had  
5 collected in her filter in her swimming pool. I  
6 actually have a swimming pool myself. And another  
7 neighbor up my street, Albert Cullens, which is --  
8 he's deceased now. He was the first one that  
9 called me about his situation, and I referred him  
10 to DHEC. I've worked with DHEC before. I worked  
11 with the South Carolina Regional Housing Authority  
12 until the end of March of this year, so we have  
13 dealt with DHEC and other members in my line of  
14 work.

15                   It's appalling to see the things that's  
16 going on in our community. When we go outside,  
17 the dust is terrible. My wife has asthma. My  
18 next door neighbor does. People on up the street  
19 here have complained. We've all talked to each  
20 other. This is a serious situation for us here in  
21 our community. You have drainage from your nose  
22 constantly. Your lungs, you can feel. You can  
23 feel the dust as you breathe. You can see it in  
24 the air early in the mornings. My wife and I has  
25 been out on our deck, and you can see it in the

1 air. Our cars are covered. When you take your  
2 car to have it washed, the guy commented about  
3 all -- he didn't know whether he could get the  
4 wood off of the car. You can take your hands and  
5 wipe it off the windows of your car, your vehicle,  
6 anywhere you go outside. This is a real concern.

7 We're elderly, late 70s, want to live  
8 as long as we can. And I've never had lung  
9 problems in my life, but I cough more now. You're  
10 constantly sneezing, having to use nasal spray.  
11 And I know it's coming for this community because  
12 we see it. And I'm really concerned of the -- you  
13 know, the -- our property here is going to be  
14 devalued. Nobody's going to want to live in this  
15 community. It's a serious situation.

16 And I've worked with DHEC before, and  
17 I've seen the results that you have got. But  
18 we're pleading with you. If these people are  
19 calling and saying all these wonderful things  
20 about this company, come out here and live with us  
21 and just --

22 (Timer sounds.)

23 -- go through what we're going through  
24 here. And I appreciate you letting me have an  
25 opportunity to speak. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Rhodes.

3 Ms. Lucia Ibarra, if you are now ready,  
4 you can provide your comment.

5 We will now move to Mr. Art Bush. And  
6 following Mr. Bush, James C. Sanders, Junior.

7 Mr. Bush, please start by providing your name and  
8 spelling of your name as well, and you can proceed  
9 with leaving your comment.

10 Mr. James C. Sanders, Junior, if you  
11 are ready, please unmute and you may provide your  
12 comment.

13 MR. SANDERS: Thank you, ma'am.

14 My name is James C. Sanders, Junior.  
15 That's J-A-M-E-S, middle initial C, S-A-N-D-E-R-S,  
16 Junior. I am a member of the Greenwood County  
17 Forest Landowners Association, and I support  
18 Enviva's efforts to increase the production of  
19 their Greenwood County manufacturing facility.

20 I consider myself to be a tree farmer.  
21 I own and manage three small tree farms, one here  
22 in Greenwood County and two other tracts in  
23 adjoining counties. My tree farms are primarily  
24 devoted to the production of loblolly pine. I  
25 plant my trees as small seedlings. I nurture them

1 and hope to harvest them some day in the same  
2 matter as any farmer plants, nutures, and harvest  
3 a crop. My tree farms are operated in accordance  
4 with forest management plans approved by the  
5 American Tree Farm System and the American Forest  
6 Foundation. This certifies that my humble tree  
7 farms are managed in an environmentally  
8 sustainable manner. Tree farms like mine help  
9 provide the raw material used in the production of  
10 thousands of forest products and help in  
11 supporting this state's vitally important forest  
12 industries. Forest industries currently generate  
13 more than \$21 billion in annual economic activity  
14 for South Carolina. Markets created by our  
15 state's forest industries provide tree farmers  
16 like me an economic incentive to maintain forest  
17 management as our desired land use.

18 As a retired natural resource  
19 specialist with the United States Department of  
20 Agriculture, I understand the societal benefits of  
21 forest as a land use. Markets for forest products  
22 such as those provided by Enviva will help slow  
23 the conversion of South Carolina's forest to more  
24 intensive land use. I thank you for the  
25 opportunity to make my remarks.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

2 Mr. -- I'm sorry. We'll now hear from  
3 Ms. Lucia Ibarra. Are you available on the phone?  
4 If so, please unmute by using star six.

5 We'll now again call on Art Bush.  
6 Mr. Bush, are you available?

7 We will now call on Cam Crawford. And  
8 following Mr. Crawford, we will call on Dr. Gary  
9 Harbour. Mr. Crawford?

10 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Can you hear me?

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

12 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. I'm Cam Crawford.  
13 That's C-A-M C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D. I'm president of  
14 the Forestry Association of South Carolina.

15 On June 26th, the online edition of The  
16 State paper published an op-ed I submitted calling  
17 for South Carolina to adopt a new strategy for  
18 forest conservation in the 21st century. In  
19 essence, the op-ed pointed out that the  
20 environmental movement is fighting a battle that  
21 has already been won while ignoring the biggest  
22 threat to forest conservation. Here are some key  
23 points in the op-ed:

24 Conservation began with forestry more  
25 than a century ago, leaving president Teddy

1 Roosevelt to state that the conservation movement  
2 was, and I quote, "A direct outgrowth of the  
3 forest movement," end quote. During the 21st  
4 century, the fight for forest conservation was due  
5 to unsustainable timber harvesting practices. In  
6 the 21st century, sustainability and environmental  
7 stewardship are central components of the forest  
8 products industry. The battle against  
9 unsustainable timber harvesting has been won in  
10 this state. There are 2 million more acres of  
11 forestland today than in 1936. With increasing  
12 development, projections are showing up to a  
13 22 percent loss of forestland in the Piedmont  
14 region by 2060.

15 To be clear, urbanization is the  
16 biggest threat to forest today, and private  
17 landowners are essential in the efforts to  
18 maintain and increase our forestlands. There are  
19 currently 200,000 forest landowners in South  
20 Carolina that will determine the future of forest  
21 conservation in this state. So to encourage  
22 private landowners to fully engage with forest  
23 conservation, we must adopt a new strategy that  
24 includes creating markets for landowners. If we  
25 do not create markets for forest landowners, it

1 will result in the selling of timberlands to  
2 developers.

3 In the 21st century, here is the  
4 question that the environmental movement must ask:  
5 Is it better for a piece of property to remain as  
6 a working forest or be used to expand urban  
7 sprawl? With the huge budget deficit, the federal  
8 government cannot be expected to buy sufficient  
9 amounts of forestland to achieve the climate and  
10 ecological outcomes that are so important.

11 Supporting private ownership of forestlands is the  
12 most practical way to achieve climate and  
13 ecological values that we cherish. To keep these  
14 private lands as forests, landowners need viable  
15 markets, including wood-based bioenergy.

16 In closing, markets are important to  
17 the private landowners since they provide the  
18 incentive to plant and manage healthy and  
19 productive forests. These forests provide  
20 countless environmental benefits for all South  
21 Carolinians while providing the starting point for  
22 the \$21 billion forest products industry in South  
23 Carolina. Since Enviva acquired the Greenwood  
24 facility in spring 2018, Enviva has worked with  
25 the community --

1 (Timer sounds.)

2 -- 1,000 South Carolina landowners for  
3 wood fiber. This generated additional revenue for  
4 South Carolinians to reinvest in their forestland.  
5 Enviva is the world's largest producers of wood  
6 pellets, and we are pleased to have them as a  
7 member of the Forestry Association of South  
8 Carolina. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
10 Thank you for your comments.

11 We will proceed on with our next  
12 participant, Dr. Gary Harbour.

13 DR. HARBOUR: Hello.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Unmute.

15 DR. HARBOUR: Yes. Hello. Can you  
16 hear me?

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, I can.  
18 Thank you.

19 DR. HARBOUR: My name is Dr. Gary  
20 Harbour, G-A-R-Y H-A-R-B-O-U-R. I'm a Ph.D.  
21 chemist with 35-year background in manufacturing  
22 processes. I want to thank DHEC for the  
23 opportunity to speak to the Enviva Greenwood  
24 expansion permit.

25 Approval of this permit would not lead

1 to decreases of particulate matter pollution as  
2 controls against particulates are not being  
3 substantially improved. Especially concerning are  
4 the sub 2.5 micro (technical difficulty), which  
5 are known to cause significant pulmonary and  
6 promotes cancer risks. Neighboring residents  
7 report they can't go outside or get covered with  
8 sawdust and associated particulates. The plant is  
9 operating 24 hours a day, making the exposure time  
10 very high.

11 On top of that, this very Enviva plant  
12 has a history of noncompliance. On May 8th, 2019,  
13 the Enviva Greenwood plant was cited after an  
14 inspection by DHEC with eight major violations,  
15 all of which could contribute with exceeding  
16 permitted pollution levels.

17 A follow-up inspection on  
18 September 24th, 2019, found a visible plume at  
19 24 percent opacity, where the legal limit is  
20 20 percent.

21 Then on December 4th, 2019, a complaint  
22 of heavy visible emissions led an inspector to  
23 find opacity at 79 percent, almost four times the  
24 legal limit. Enviva was found to be using the  
25 furnace bypass stack during a non-approved

1 operation. These inspections ultimately led to  
2 Enviva voluntarily entering into a consent order  
3 on July 16th, 2020, only one month ago.

4 The inspection findings include failure  
5 to maintain calibration data for major equipment,  
6 like the dryer and the emission control devices  
7 like the wet electrostatic precipitator used to  
8 control particulate emissions; failure to document  
9 causes and corrective actions when established  
10 control parameters were violated; failure to  
11 conduct weekly operations and maintenance checks  
12 on major equipment; failure to record operational  
13 control data; failure to submit required reports  
14 to DHEC.

15 In short, Enviva is under consent order  
16 for poor compliance in operation, maintenance,  
17 recordkeeping, and their required reporting to  
18 DHEC. Approval of this permit would result in  
19 increases in particulate matter pollution and CO<sub>2</sub>e  
20 pollution. DHEC should not approve the requested  
21 permit until Enviva addresses the additional  
22 emissions and associated risk to the public.  
23 Enviva's permit would allow them to increase their  
24 production generating capacity --

25 (Timer sounds.)

1                   -- while under a consent order only one  
2 month old, which was triggered by their own  
3 recidivist violation of pollution limits. The  
4 permit should be denied under these circumstances  
5 until they demonstrate the commitment and  
6 capability to follow the regulations and their own  
7 commitments. Thank you.

8                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

9                   We'd like to ask at this time if you do  
10 have your camera on and you are not --

11                  MR. BUSH: Yep.

12                  HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- speaking,  
13 if you could --

14                  MR. BUSH: Yeah, yeah.

15                  HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- turn your  
16 cameras off.

17                  MR. BUSH: May I interrupt? Can you  
18 hear me? Can you hear me?

19                  HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
20 hear you.

21                  MR. BUSH: This is Art Bush, and I --  
22 there's a technical issue with some cell phones.  
23 They don't unmute, and I was under the mute when  
24 you called me before. And if you would allow me,  
25 I'd like to speak.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Mr. Bush, if  
2 you would go ahead and restate your name and spell  
3 it for the record and provide your comment.

4 MR. BUSH: Okay. My name is Art Bush,  
5 and I'm interim CEO of the Greenwood Partnership  
6 Alliance in Greenwood. And that's spelled A-R-T  
7 B-U-S-H. And I'm calling in support of the permit  
8 application of Enviva.

9 I've been listening to the calls, and I  
10 understand the concerns of the members of the  
11 community that surround the plant. But I also, as  
12 a member of the Partnership Alliance, have been  
13 working with Enviva for a couple of years now. I  
14 know that they are dedicated in trying to find and  
15 put in place a better process to improve the  
16 emissions.

17 They've been active in the economic  
18 development of Greenwood County. As said by  
19 Mr. Coffey previously, they employ 18 members of  
20 our community, commit approximately \$115 million  
21 to the Greenwood community. They also are very  
22 active in the community and supporting things like  
23 the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, our own  
24 Partnership Alliance, the Boys & Girls Clubs in  
25 the Lakelands Region, Self Regional Hospital,

1 Preserving Lake Greenwood.

2 And I believe that their intent is to  
3 spend \$25 million, potentially that number, to  
4 improve the processes, to improve the quality of  
5 the air, and also to increase production, which  
6 helps them to pay the \$25 million which it takes  
7 to do these improvements. So I believe that in  
8 passing this permit will achieve the objectives of  
9 the issues that the neighbors are having.

10 And I want to just thank Enviva for  
11 their continued investment in Greenwood County and  
12 South Carolina. And I want to thank you for this  
13 opportunity to speak tonight. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

15 Miss Lucia, we see that your mic has  
16 been unmuted. If you would like to go ahead and  
17 provide your comment at this time.

18 MS. IBARRA: Can you hear me now?

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
20 hear you. Yes. Thank you.

21 MS. IBARRA: Oh, my God, finally.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Begin by  
23 stating your name and spelling it for the record.

24 MS. IBARRA: Yes. My name is Lucia  
25 Ibarra, which is L-U-C-I-A; last name, I-B, as in

1 boy, A-R-R-A. I have a bachelor's of science in  
2 wildlife habitat management and a master's degree  
3 in organizational psychology. I speak to you  
4 today with experience and knowledge of working in  
5 the U.S. forest plan and as a biologist for  
6 several governmental agencies. I am really  
7 concerned about the wood pellet industry's impact  
8 on South Carolina's communities, forests, climate  
9 during this time of pandemic crisis. I'm here  
10 today to urge DHEC to deny Enviva's air quality  
11 permit to expand production in Greenwood, South  
12 Carolina, and to complete a full environmental  
13 justice report.

14 Approving this air quality permit means  
15 that Enviva will expand production to 660 tons of  
16 wood pellets per year, which means 15,800 acres of  
17 forest cut per year, or to make it easier for you,  
18 43 acres of forest cut per day. And this will  
19 emit 1,423 tons of CO2 per year, which equivalent  
20 of over 270-hundred-thousand extra cars on the  
21 road. This is what this permit will do. This is  
22 an environmental injustice for our communities and  
23 our planet.

24 On top of that, if this permit gets  
25 approved, Enviva will attempt to increase their

1 softwood sourcing limit from 90 percent to a  
2 hundred percent, which is already, like, high.  
3 And as a result of increasing softwood uses, our  
4 communities become more vulnerable to flooding.  
5 Hurricane Florence, for example, caused  
6 devastating flooding in some of the most heavily  
7 loaded areas in South Carolina. Years of  
8 investigations, like Tandy Taylor said, have  
9 documented that Enviva sources whole trees, not  
10 top of -- not limbs or wood that is not really  
11 good -- from wetlands, from wetland forest, which  
12 are ecological, important in sensitive ecosystem  
13 and critical for flood control. And also  
14 (inaudible) communities from flooding in reducing  
15 costly property damages, and of course is water  
16 filtration for our communities.

17 DHEC need to put attention on the fact  
18 that natural forest and wetlands increase the  
19 resiliency of flood-prone areas whereas the forest  
20 deprivation, clearcut logging, and conversion to  
21 plantations significantly decrease flood  
22 protections and benefits to surrounding  
23 communities.

24 (Timer sounds.)

25 We also know -- I'm almost done. So we

1 also know that carbon emissions remain in the  
2 atmosphere for decades. And even new trees --  
3 even though if new trees are planted as that  
4 replacement rate.

5 Residents close to the plant are  
6 complaining about the trucks, the noise, and the  
7 dust, and the wood debris. Impact residents  
8 deserve an opportunity to be informed about the  
9 consequences of approving this permit and the real  
10 meaning of expansion. We cannot deny that we're  
11 in a climate and a pandemic crisis. And current  
12 (technical difficulty) electricity is not a  
13 solution. It's our odd destruction. I'm asking  
14 DHEC to deny this permit for Enviva's expansion.  
15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
17 Thank you very much for your comment.

18 We will now move on to Sabrina Miller,  
19 and following Ms. Sabrina Miller, Tim Adams.  
20 Ms. Sabrina Miller, please unmute your mic if you  
21 would like to provide your comments.

22 MS. MILLER: Can everyone hear me?

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

24 MS. MILLER: Okay. Good afternoon,  
25 everybody. My name is Sabrina Miller, and I am

1 the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of  
2 the Lakelands. Enviva has been a staunch  
3 supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of the  
4 Lakelands since we came to the community about a  
5 year ago. And besides being a valued employer of  
6 many persons in Greenwood, Enviva is a great  
7 corporate partner. This application for permit is  
8 proof that they are committed to improving  
9 conditions in the community by doing all they can  
10 to not cause harm. We have more than 30 percent  
11 of our youth in Greenwood living below the poverty  
12 line, and Enviva has donated generously to the  
13 Boys & Girls Club to ensure that those youth who  
14 otherwise would not have any opportunities to  
15 improve their stations in life now have an  
16 opportunity through programs that the Boys & Girls  
17 Club provides that are staunchly supported by  
18 Enviva through their generous donations of not  
19 just financial support but also through  
20 volunteerism, utilizing their staff to support any  
21 projects that we have, but (technical difficulty)  
22 mentors to our students, and just being a great  
23 corporate partner to us.

24 So because of the great good that I  
25 know Enviva continues to do in our community, I

1 would very much ask that DHEC would please approve  
2 their application for permit. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

4 We will now call on Tim Adams.

5 Mr. Adams, please unmute.

6 MR. ADAMS: Can you hear me?

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: And you may  
8 provide your comment. Yes.

9 MS. MILLER: Okay. Good evening. My  
10 name is Tim Adams, T-I-M A-D-A-M-S. I'm speaking  
11 on behalf of the South Carolina Forestry  
12 Commission in support of the Enviva air quality  
13 permit. I have responsibilities for collecting  
14 and analyzing forest resource data related to  
15 forest sustainability.

16 First, to put things in perspective,  
17 two-thirds of South Carolina is forested, that our  
18 state is undergoing change as our population  
19 grows. You have only to drive the interstate  
20 corridor near Charleston and Greenville to see  
21 that change for yourself. So far, forest land  
22 base is stable at 12.9 million acres. And that's  
23 refreshing news for the air we breathe and the  
24 water we drink because the cleanest air and water  
25 come from our forests.

1                   Now, this public hearing is  
2 specifically about air quality, and I'll say the  
3 greatest threat to air quality related to forestry  
4 is the loss of forestland acreage. For instance,  
5 the I-85 corridor through the Upstate has lost  
6 over 175,000 acres of forest over the past  
7 25 years.

8                   So how do we maintain our forests and  
9 the ecosystem services that they provide? And  
10 it's really quite simple. We create value for  
11 forest landowners so they can afford to maintain  
12 their land in forests. The primary economic value  
13 that landowners receive comes from markets for  
14 their timber products. The Greenwood area doesn't  
15 have an abundance of markets, and that's reflected  
16 in the lower timber prices that landowners receive  
17 in the Upstate. The Enviva pulpwood market allows  
18 landowners to thin their pine stands for improved  
19 health and vigor.

20                   Now, the ratio of timber growth to the  
21 amount of annual harvest is the best measure of  
22 forest sustainability, and the bigger the number,  
23 the better. In Enviva's wood basket, the  
24 growth-drain ratio is 2.1 for softwoods and 4.1  
25 for hardwoods. So that means that twice as much

1 softwood and four times as much hardwood is being  
2 grown as is harvested annually. Even with the  
3 Enviva expansion, the Greenwood wood basket is  
4 expected to continuing growing.

5 I can summarize the forests' resource  
6 as being sustainable: Our forests are balanced  
7 with equal acreage of softwood and hardwoods.

8 Eighty-seven percent of the forests are  
9 owned by private individuals.

10 And even with the expansion, pellet  
11 production will only amount to just a little bit  
12 over 1 percent of all the timber products that we  
13 manufacture in South Carolina.

14 Now, I started my remarks by saying  
15 that the cleanest air and water come from our  
16 forests. Forest landowners are providing these  
17 ecosystem services to the public free of charge,  
18 but they need healthy timber markets like Enviva's  
19 Greenwood facility. Thank you for this  
20 opportunity to comment.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for  
22 your comment.

23 We will now move to James S. Sanders,  
24 Junior. Mr. Sanders, you could please unmute your  
25 mic if you would like to provide your comment.

1                   We will now call on Ken Leach, followed  
2 by Reverend Leo Woodberry. Mr. Leach, would you  
3 please unmute your mic and provide your name and  
4 your comment. Thank you.

5                   MR. LEACH: My name is Ken Leach, K-E-N  
6 L-E-A-C-H. I live in Greenwood, and I'm retired  
7 after a 40-year career in forestry. I currently  
8 volunteer in various capacities and boards with  
9 the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program,  
10 the Forestry Association of South Carolina, the  
11 Upper Savannah Land Trust, the Greenwood Forestry  
12 Association, and Keep Greenwood County Beautiful.

13                   I returned in nine -- in 2015 to  
14 Greenwood after accepting the position of  
15 procurement manager for the pellet mill being  
16 built by Colombo Energy. Procurement manager is  
17 responsible for the acquisition of the fiber to  
18 feed the mill. Colombo was Enviva's predecessor.  
19 My task was to build a supply chain to support the  
20 operation and get that wood certified to the  
21 various sustainability standards required in the  
22 global pellet market. Several studies were  
23 conducted to verify the presence of a sustainable  
24 wood in the fiber supply to support the operation.

25                   What I have found when I arrived were

1 tree farmers, landowners, loggers, and wood  
2 suppliers who were anxious to see another market  
3 for their low-grade wood or pulpwood. I spoke to  
4 landowners and loggers who couldn't get wood cut  
5 due to the lack of consistent markets. A supply  
6 chain was in place and certification to four  
7 internationally-recognized sustainability  
8 standards were required to sell to the world  
9 pellet market were secured for the startup in late  
10 2016.

11 In the past five years, this region has  
12 been -- has seen periodic shifts in demand for  
13 wood due to mill closures, changes in production,  
14 or changes in the species consumed. These ongoing  
15 changes are unsettling to landowners and suppliers  
16 in the region. The presence of the pellet mill  
17 offers another market for the wood, and has been a  
18 positive and stabilizing influence for pulpwood  
19 harvesting.

20 As with any industry, commissioning and  
21 startup of a new facility is not without  
22 challenges. My experience has been that both  
23 Colombo and Enviva tackled every challenge in a  
24 very professional manner, striving to meet air  
25 permit requirements. As Enviva's markets develop

1 worldwide, I'm sure they will be very keen to see  
2 that any permitting required to meet those goals  
3 were exceeded with the same intensity and  
4 professionalism that I experienced during my  
5 employment. I ask you to support Enviva's air  
6 quality permit. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

8 Reverend Woodberry, please unmute and  
9 provide your comment.

10 REV. WOODBERRY: Thank you. Thank you  
11 very much. My name is Leo Woodberry, L-E-O  
12 W-O-O-D-B-E-R-R-Y. I am the executive director of  
13 New Alpha Community Development Corporation, which  
14 is a member of the South Carolina Environmental  
15 Justice Network, and I also serve as a board  
16 member for Dogwood Alliance. I'm coming to you at  
17 this time in order to request that DHEC deny the  
18 permit to expand the Enviva plant at Greenwood.

19 And I was very pleased to hear at the  
20 beginning of this hearing that DHEC is tasked with  
21 looking after the public health of the citizens of  
22 South Carolina because so many of the comments  
23 made are based with -- based on wealth rather than  
24 concern for the health of the citizens of  
25 Greenwood and surrounding areas. When we look at

1 the permit requesting expansion, we note that they  
2 are endeavoring to put controls in place that will  
3 reduce HAPs, VOCs, and controlled dust, even  
4 though we know that there is a history of  
5 violations of emissions emitted by the plant.

6 So when we look at the place that we  
7 are currently in right now in South Carolina and  
8 our nation, when COVID is spiking in South  
9 Carolina and ravaging our communities, from a  
10 public health perspective we know that people who  
11 suffer from respiratory problems are more  
12 susceptible to contract COVID-19 and,  
13 unfortunately, to become fatalities.

14 When we look at the fact that Enviva  
15 needs to put in place a better business management  
16 plan that is known to the community, that they  
17 need to conduct an environmental justice analysis  
18 so that we can see the impacts on the community  
19 and the health of its members. We need to look at  
20 the fact that particulate matter will still be  
21 spread throughout the community on logging trucks  
22 as they travel through the roads, that we need  
23 better dust control both outside of the facility  
24 and inside of the facility. And with the  
25 emissions, because there's still going to be

1 emissions even though they're reducing, especially  
2 with the expansion of production, we need to look  
3 at the fact that stacks need to be increased in  
4 height so that the VOCs and HAPs are emitted  
5 higher in the atmosphere and thus produce a lower  
6 risk for the citizens of Greenwood and surrounding  
7 areas.

8 I have to say at this time when people  
9 are struggling to breathe, from children to our  
10 seniors --

11 (Timer sounds.)

12 -- and noting the multiple violations  
13 that the Enviva plant has done as recently as a  
14 month ago that more controls, better management  
15 practices need to be put in place before this  
16 permit can be approved. Thank you very much.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
18 Reverend Woodberry.

19 We would now like to call on Craft  
20 Hollingsworth. Mr. Hollingsworth, if you could  
21 please unmute your mic.

22 Mr. Hollingsworth, if you would like to  
23 provide a comment now, you can do so by unmuting  
24 your mic. We have some instructions on the screen  
25 on how to do so.

1                   We will now move on and call on Dallas  
2 Conyers.

3                   REV. CONYERS: Hello. Can you hear me?

4                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
5 hear you. Thank you.

6                   REV. CONYERS: My name is Reverend  
7 Dallas Conyers. That is spelled D-A-L-L-A-S  
8 C-O-N-Y-E-R-S. I am currently the program  
9 coordinator for South Carolina Interfaith Power  
10 and Light. I am also speaking as a sustainable  
11 agriculturist, beekeeper, licensed husbandman, and  
12 permaculturist.

13                   I've heard a lot tonight that makes me  
14 want to go off script of my proposed topic, but I  
15 am still saying please do not approve this permit.  
16 As Reverend Woodberry said, most of the pro  
17 comments are centered around economics. But  
18 economics does nothing for this latest generation  
19 of children, who are the first generation in over  
20 200 years whose life expectancy is actually  
21 shorter than the generation before them. All of  
22 this progress has resulted in genetic and  
23 environmental harms that are so egregious that we  
24 are shortening our life spans, and our children  
25 are the ones paying for it. We must stop looking

1 at money as a motivator when the generation of  
2 that money is harming and killing the people that  
3 it's supposed to be supporting.

4 I've heard many comments about health  
5 of forests. And the fact of the matter is the  
6 forest that they're talking about are largely  
7 monocultures, which are not working forests.  
8 Working forests are supposed to be diverse,  
9 supporting many forms of life and, therefore,  
10 creating and sustaining naturally the biodiversity  
11 necessary to create a healthy environment not just  
12 for the animals and plants that live in it but  
13 also for the humans that live in, live nearby  
14 them.

15 These are not the cases in these  
16 forests that they're talking about. These forests  
17 have been stripped bare of most of the  
18 biodiversity, and that is why so many of the trees  
19 are unhealthy; not because too many trees are  
20 standing, but because there's too much human  
21 interference in those lands as it is.

22 We need to look at the fact that when  
23 we see companies like this operating, the areas in  
24 which they operate are usually poor or places of  
25 color. You do not see this near the operator's or

1 the people who create these businesses homes  
2 because they know that they don't want them near  
3 their homes. I heard one person say that the  
4 community will understand. That tells you both  
5 that, number one, they don't live in the community  
6 and, number two, the community is suffering. They  
7 know the community is suffering. And they're  
8 saying eventually they'll understand. When will  
9 the community understand? When their medication  
10 bills surpass any money they're getting from  
11 working in Enviva or working in that area? Will  
12 they understand when their children's medical  
13 bills surpass any money given by Enviva or when  
14 their child has to go to the hospital instead of  
15 to the new Boys & Girls Club or expanded Boys &  
16 Girls Club?

17 We need to stop using money as a lynch  
18 point as people are dying, as we're shortening our  
19 life.

20 (Timer sounds.)

21 And we need to ask ourselves when God  
22 looks upon the creation that he called good and  
23 told us to be stewards of it, will they be able to  
24 answer him with a book and ledger of our accounts  
25 or will he look at us and see how we affected his

1 creation and his other children that look just  
2 look us? Thank you for allowing me to speak.  
3 Please do not approve this permit. Look to your  
4 morality and look to whether or not you would want  
5 to live next door to Enviva. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

7 We will now call on Chris Brown,  
8 followed by Heather Hillaker. Mr. Brown, please  
9 unmute and you could provide your comment.

10 MR. BROWN: Hello. Can you hear me?

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Yes, I am Chris  
13 Brown. I am Enviva's community relations manager.  
14 I support this permit since it will allow Enviva  
15 to enhance and improve its operations in Greenwood  
16 County. This is a good thing for a great  
17 community.

18 In my role, I have the honor of working  
19 closely with nonprofit organizations in the  
20 communities that Enviva operates. These  
21 nonprofits are staffed by like-minded individuals  
22 who share the same basic goal of improving the  
23 lives of others in their community. I am proud to  
24 be one of the newest board members for the Boys &  
25 Girls Club of the Lakelands Region, and we're all

1 excited about the new Josh Norman Teen Center that  
2 is due to open this fall. It will be an awesome  
3 asset for Greenwood County.

4           The collective energy of the  
5 individuals that I work with has no limits, but  
6 budgets and volunteers do. My good friend,  
7 Sabrina Miller, who you heard from earlier is with  
8 the Boys & Girls Club, and she's a classic example  
9 of this. Last year Enviva signed on to sponsor a  
10 family fun event for the children of the Boys &  
11 Girls Club close to the Christmas holiday. Upon  
12 my arrival with a fellow Enviva employee, Sabrina  
13 asked us if we're going to observe or participate.  
14 I replied that we were there to volunteer. So for  
15 the next two hours, I made reindeer out of plastic  
16 cups while my associate helped children decorate  
17 cookies. It was a fun and rewarding time, and  
18 it's something that we do all the time at Enviva.

19           Enviva's relationship continued to grow  
20 with the Boys & Girls Club as we became one of the  
21 first corporate sponsors of the new Josh Norman  
22 Teen Center that is set to open, as I said, this  
23 fall. That new center is poised to serve over  
24 1,000 boys and girls annually, providing countless  
25 opportunities for the youth of Greenwood. In

1 addition to our work with the Boys & Girls Club, I  
2 am personally engaged with volunteer efforts and  
3 sponsorships with nearly a dozen different  
4 nonprofit organizations in the Greenwood area,  
5 from cleaning up Lake Greenwood to sponsoring  
6 events with Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.

7 In closing, Enviva cares about our  
8 communities. We're engaged. We invest in our  
9 communities. That's what we do here in Greenwood  
10 and throughout the Greenwood enterprise. Thank  
11 you very much for the opportunity to provide  
12 comments tonight.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you very  
14 much.

15 Ms. Heather Hillaker?

16 MS. HILLAKER: Hi. Can you hear me?

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

18 MS. HILLAKER: Thank you. My name is  
19 Heather Hillaker; last name, H-I-L-L-A-K-E-R. And  
20 I am an attorney with the Southern Environmental  
21 Law Center. In addition to written comments that  
22 will be submitted jointly with the Environmental  
23 Integrity Project, I am providing oral comments  
24 tonight to highlight a few specific issues with  
25 the draft permit and this facility.

1                   The draft permit at issue tonight  
2 involves an expansion and modification to the  
3 existing Enviva Greenwood facility. As part of  
4 this modification, Enviva plans to install  
5 additional pollution control technologies that  
6 will decrease several pollutants. Not all  
7 pollutants, however, will decrease. In  
8 particular, by permitting Enviva to expand  
9 production by over 100,000 tons per year and  
10 increase itself with content to a hundred percent,  
11 the draft permit would also allow Enviva to  
12 increase emissions of hazardous and toxic air  
13 pollutants, including formaldehyde.

14                   The increase in production allowed  
15 under the draft permit will have other harmful  
16 impacts to nearby communities. Increased  
17 production at the pellet mill will mean more truck  
18 and rail traffic, which will in turn increase  
19 pollution, dust, odor, and noise. Recent aerial  
20 photographs of the facility showed dozens of  
21 logging trucks lined up at one time to unload  
22 trees at the facility.

23                   Additionally, as we've heard tonight,  
24 residents living closest to the facility have  
25 expressed concerns over the amount of dust and

1 soot in the air from Enviva's current operations.  
2 This will only be exacerbated by the proposed  
3 expansion. These impacts will threaten the health  
4 and quality of life for people living near the  
5 plant.

6           Additionally, according to the  
7 information provided in the permitting documents,  
8 it appears that the Enviva Greenwood facility has  
9 been illegally operating as a major source of  
10 nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide for the past  
11 few years. Enviva's permit application  
12 acknowledges that the previous owners, Colombo  
13 Energy, failed to quantify emissions from all  
14 sources at the facility, emissions which Enviva is  
15 now incorporating as part of the pending permit.  
16 As shown plainly in the chart provided in Enviva's  
17 own application, when all of the emission sources  
18 are properly accounted for, emissions of NOx and  
19 CO exceed the major source threshold under the  
20 Clean Air Act's Prevention of Significant  
21 Deterioration Program. The facility does not,  
22 however, have a major source permit and has not  
23 undergone pre-construction review as required  
24 under state and federal air quality laws. While  
25 NOx and CO emissions will decrease as a result of

1 the proposed modification, that does not change  
2 the fact the facility has been illegally operating  
3 as a major source for the past few years and will  
4 continue to do so until the proposed control  
5 technologies are installed and operational, which  
6 may not be for another year. Accordingly, DHEC  
7 should take the appropriate enforcement action  
8 against the facility for operating a major source  
9 of NOx and CO in violation of the Clean Air Act.

10 I look forward to expanding on these  
11 and other issues in our written comments, and I  
12 encourage DHEC to listen carefully to the  
13 complaints being made tonight by those living  
14 nearby to the -- nearby to the facility and to  
15 take those issues into account when evaluating  
16 Enviva's proposal. Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

18 We'll now move on to Chief Parr. Chief  
19 Parr, if you would like to comment, please unmute  
20 your mic or star six using your phone.

21 We will now call on Luke Penney. Luke  
22 Penney?

23 MR. PENNEY: Yes. Can you hear me?

24 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes. Thank  
25 you.

1 MR. PENNEY: All right. My name is  
2 Luke Penney. That's L-U-K-E P-E-N-N-E-Y. I am  
3 the president of the Abbeville County Landowners  
4 Association and a forestry consultant. I am in  
5 support of Enviva's proposed expansion and air  
6 quality permit at their Greenwood pellet facility.

7 The Enviva mill purchases pulpwood from  
8 private landowners in Abbeville and surrounding  
9 counties. Landowners in Abbeville County and  
10 throughout the Piedmont of South Carolina have a  
11 need for pulpwood markets to maintain the health  
12 and vigor of their forests. The Enviva mill sits  
13 in a location that gives it the ability to have a  
14 positive impact on stumpage values, which drive  
15 the incentive for reforestation and healthy forest  
16 management.

17 The Piedmont region of the southeast  
18 has suffered from fragmentation. A byproduct of  
19 fragmentation is urbanization and development. A  
20 strong timber market is one of the better tools to  
21 help curb fragmentation of forest landscapes and  
22 development while maintaining and creating more  
23 forested land. Forest landowners in Abbeville  
24 County have made a long-term investment in trees  
25 which provide clean air, water, and wildlife

1 habitat and quality of life for residents.

2 The majority of the timber harvested  
3 for the Enviva mill comes from thinning stands of  
4 timber. Thinning removes diseased and  
5 poor-quality trees, enhancing the health and  
6 viability of the remaining stand of trees. A  
7 healthy tree is less receptive to pest, disease,  
8 and drought.

9 I appreciate the opportunity to provide  
10 my comments. Thanks.

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

12 We'll now move on to Florence Anoruo.  
13 The last name is spelled A-N-O-R-U-O. If you  
14 would like to provide your comment, please unmute  
15 your microphone at this time.

16 We will now call on Annemarie Humm,  
17 followed by Trip Chavis. Annemarie, please unmute  
18 your mic at this time to provide your comment.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS. HUMM: Thank you. My name is  
21 Annemarie Humm, A-N-N-E-M-A-R-I-E H-U-M-M. I am  
22 here to speak on behalf of several neighbors that  
23 live very close to the Enviva plant in Greenwood.  
24 Some are very frustrated and many are intimidated  
25 and too shy to speak publicly about their

1 concerns, and few do not know where to turn for  
2 help. That's why they asked me to help with their  
3 complaint and also with the public comment.

4 We oppose the expansion at the Enviva  
5 Greenwood plant. We think that we are not getting  
6 heard and that big business, local organizations,  
7 and the local government are working together to  
8 ignore the simple people living in the area around  
9 the plant. We also need to remember there is  
10 Woodfields Elementary School close by, and nobody  
11 has spoken up for the children that go to the  
12 school every day.

13 I will stick to the major concerns and  
14 complaints told by Rita Deloach, Michael Ginn,  
15 Forest Alexander, Gale and Donnie Hentz, Donna and  
16 Wilbert Hicken, and Connie Martin. Other than the  
17 dust and particulates in the air which settle on  
18 everything -- especially the cars, the trucks or  
19 personal vehicles, metal buildings, the property  
20 owners' yards -- the noise is a big issue.  
21 Comfort is being outside -- comfort of being  
22 outside is limited by the dust particulates which  
23 are in the air and are being breathed in along  
24 with the pumping and the grinding noise of the  
25 plant, especially at night, being the hammering,

1 the train car noises, and the horn blowing when  
2 the train cars are moved, especially from 4 till  
3 7 a.m., as Donny Hentz told me.

4 Fires have happened several times, and  
5 smoke and musty pine odor is noticed by Michael  
6 Ginn and Gale Hentz. "One never knows what is  
7 next," Gale said. The constant truck traffic, the  
8 consequent road dust pollution, and the wood  
9 debris from the transportation trucks are a  
10 constant eyesore. Several residents have filed  
11 complaints with DHEC before and have even been  
12 visited by the department representative, only to  
13 be told there's nothing they could do.

14 We are fed up being ignored and overrun  
15 by non-caring government officials, DHEC, and the  
16 big businesses building up all around us. We feel  
17 trapped. We urge you to keep our air clean; our  
18 nights quiet, so we and our children can sleep;  
19 and our areas safe from fire hazards, black smoke  
20 plumes floating through the air above us.

21 (Timer sounds.)

22 Musty odors and (technical difficulty)  
23 perfumes coming from the constant lines of trucks.  
24 Most of us have lived here before the plant  
25 opened, and Enviva has been neglectful in our need

1 for clean air and a comfortable living  
2 environment. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
4 Mr. Trip Chavis, please.

5 MR. CHAVIS: Thank you. My name is  
6 Trip, T-R-I-P; Chavis, C-H-A-V-I-S. I am the  
7 president and CEO of Milliken Forestry Company of  
8 South Carolina, land management consulting firm.  
9 And I'm here tonight to speak in support of  
10 Enviva's air quality permit to enhance and expand  
11 its facility in Greenwood.

12 The permit represents a  
13 \$20-plus-million investment in Greenwood. It will  
14 enable the facility to be more efficient, increase  
15 production, and improve its overall environmental  
16 performance. With a current estimated total  
17 economic impact of \$115 million to the Greenwood  
18 community, the increase in production will provide  
19 a boost to the forest products sector while  
20 providing an increased demand for wood fiber from  
21 private landowners. The capacity increase at  
22 Enviva Greenwood means increased market  
23 opportunities for South Carolina family landowners  
24 to provide several hundred thousand additional  
25 tons of sustainably grown wood to green energy.

1 Markets are important to private landowners  
2 providing the incentive to plant and manage  
3 healthy and productive forests that provide  
4 countless environmental benefits for all of South  
5 Carolinians.

6 Through their commitment to  
7 sustainability and improve forest health, Enviva  
8 has been and currently is an advocate and consumer  
9 of certified wood. Enviva and Milliken strongly  
10 support certification of working forests under the  
11 American Tree Farm System and/or the Forest  
12 Stewardship Council programs. These certification  
13 programs require monitoring and proof that  
14 harvested forests are replanted and sustainable.

15 Lastly, I believe the proposed  
16 expansion will support well-managed forests and  
17 improve forest health. Enviva uses forest  
18 products that allow a market for foresters to be  
19 able to remove and monetize trees that are  
20 diseased, unhealthy, and of poor quality, focusing  
21 future forest growth on high-quality trees and  
22 well-managed stands providing environmental  
23 benefits that only a healthy South Carolina forest  
24 can provide.

25 I appreciate the opportunity to provide

1 comment.

2 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

3 We'll now call on Craft Hollingsworth.  
4 Craft Hollingsworth?

5 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes. Can you hear  
6 me?

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
8 hear you.

9 MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. My name is  
10 Croft Hollingsworth. That's C-R-O-F-T  
11 H-O-L-L-I-N-G-S-W-O-R-T-H. And I'm the plant  
12 manager at Enviva's Greenwood facility. I have  
13 lived and worked in Greenwood for nearly 25 years  
14 except for the two years in which my wife and I  
15 lived and worked in Oregon. Enviva provided us  
16 the opportunity to return to Greenwood area to be  
17 closer to our kids and the community which we very  
18 much enjoy.

19 I lead a team of 80 men and women at  
20 Enviva Greenwood. Many started with limited skill  
21 sets and have been able to grow personally and  
22 professionally thanks in part to our company's  
23 discipline and commitment to operational  
24 excellence. I also have the privilege of working  
25 alongside dozens of local area businesses that

1 make up our supply chain, and they all share our  
2 passion for healthy forests and thriving and  
3 healthy community.

4 This permit is about enhancing emission  
5 controls at the plant, which will reduce its  
6 emissions further and allow us to moderately  
7 increase production. These enhancements represent  
8 a positive economic benefit for our partners and  
9 the local supply chain including forest  
10 landowners, loggers, local sawmills, truckers,  
11 mechanics, and other service providers. I care  
12 about Greenwood: my team at the plant, my  
13 neighbors, and my community. I've always been an  
14 active community member, volunteering for many  
15 organizations and many activities. I also served  
16 on the board of Beyond Abuse for many years. I'm  
17 passionate about ensuring Enviva is doing  
18 everything it can to be a good neighbor.

19 As the plant manager, it is my  
20 responsibility to ensure the plant is compliant  
21 with our permits and that we follow regulatory  
22 requirements. And we take that responsibility  
23 seriously, putting great effort, time, and  
24 investment in our team and resources to ensure  
25 environmental compliance. With the enhancements

1 to the facility, we will be investing nearly 28  
2 million in additional equipment and environmental  
3 controls all aimed at making the plant run more  
4 efficiently and reducing our emissions. This  
5 permit would increase our total investment in the  
6 community to over \$150 million. Every dollar we  
7 spend in Greenwood creates an economic impact that  
8 generates additional salaries, taxes, revenue for  
9 landowners, and spending in our community.

10 I fully support this permit and  
11 encourage DHEC to approve it. As the plant  
12 manager and, more importantly, as a longtime  
13 resident of Greenwood, you have my commitment that  
14 we will continue to operate this plant  
15 responsibly, be a good neighbor, and be a positive  
16 member of the Greenwood community. Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

18 Chief Parr, we would like to now call  
19 on Chief Parr.

20 CHIEF PARR: Hello? Can you hear me?

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
22 hear you.

23 CHIEF PARR: Can you hear me? Hello?

24 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes. Please  
25 proceed.

1 CHIEF PARR: Okay. I thank y'all for  
2 letting me be here tonight. I oppose this permit.  
3 I'm the chief of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe in South  
4 Carolina, one of the chiefs. And it's a shame  
5 that we have not learned nothing in 200 years.  
6 The more people, they talk about the wealth and  
7 the -- what they're doing for the community, but  
8 they're not talking about the community itself,  
9 that people are dying because of the lack of --  
10 lack of protection. When the storms come through,  
11 our trees protect us. They -- we have more floods  
12 now.

13 Please, do not give them a permit.  
14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for  
16 your comment.

17 We'll now move on to Loretta Slater.

18 MS. SLATER: Hello?

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
20 hear you.

21 MS. SLATER: Okay. My name is Loretta  
22 Slater. And that's L-O-R-E-T-T-A; Slater is S in  
23 front of "later." That's the simple part of it.  
24 I'm of the Whitney M. Slater Foundation, Kingdom  
25 Living Temple Church, and New Alpha CDC, and South

1 Carolina EJ Network.

2 I heard all the comments that was said.  
3 I would like to say this is not a formality for  
4 y'all. It's business. It's business. Well, for  
5 me, it's not that. It's a person -- it's personal  
6 to me. In 2011, I lost my only child, died due to  
7 illness that related to sickness when we was  
8 living in the close -- of a plant and a lot of  
9 pollutions was going on there. She contracted,  
10 you know, sickness where -- at the age of 19 and  
11 passed away at the age of 21. Everybody is  
12 talking about -- about the wealth and money and  
13 all that. But it went -- when it comes to a  
14 mother that lost her only child and will never be  
15 a grandmother, that hits hard.

16 I do not want this plant to get a  
17 permit because family, people over money any day.  
18 So that's my comments at this time. So please  
19 think about that, everybody, when a mother is  
20 suffering.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
22 Miss Loretta, and so very sorry about your loss.

23 We will move on with calling on  
24 Alectron Dorfman, followed by Erniko Brown.

25 MR. DORFMAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Alectron,  
2 please provide your comment --

3 MR. DORFMAN: My name is Alectron  
4 Dorfman. That's spelled A-L-E-C-T-R-O-N  
5 D-O-R-F-M-A-N. And I'm the chairman of the  
6 Lakeland Citizens for Clean Air, Incorporated. We  
7 were formed after we started to receive reports  
8 about what was happening in the form of  
9 particulates and dust and a rain of sawdust that  
10 was coming down on residents within a mile of the  
11 plant that existed. We investigated these reports  
12 and started talking to people in their  
13 neighborhood, and they told us stories of how they  
14 can't sit out in their yard, how their children  
15 cannot play in their yards, how they -- how their  
16 cars were covered in sawdust one hour after they  
17 returned home from work.

18 And these kinds of stories are not  
19 being addressed here right now by the folks who  
20 want to only talk about the financial benefits  
21 that this plant brings to the community. Of  
22 course this organization, this company, is putting  
23 out money throughout the community. They're the  
24 world's richest pellet production plant. They  
25 have plenty of money, and they're going to spread

1 it around while, on the other hand, they're  
2 polluting this community. And they are doing  
3 that, as is evidenced by the fact that they have  
4 been in violation of the Clean Air Act since  
5 they've been in operation.

6 Now, we have particulate sensors of our  
7 own sourced around the lake, and we do see at  
8 night, generally, when Enviva is running in full  
9 production that those plants at times emit two --  
10 160 particles of 2.5 particulates in a --  
11 throughout a 10-minute cycle. Every 10 minutes,  
12 we're seeing 160. That is not air that is clean  
13 debris. And those sensors are 5 miles to the  
14 northeast of those -- of that plant, 5 miles.

15 So we ask DHEC do not approve an  
16 additional production of particulates that will  
17 affect this community in such a negative way. I  
18 thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

20 Erniko Brown?

21 MS. BROWN: Yes, ma'am. Can you hear  
22 me?

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BROWN: No, thank you.

1                   Good evening, everyone. My name is  
2   Erniko Brown. And I'm from McCormick, South  
3   Carolina, but I currently live here in Greenwood,  
4   about 5 miles from the Enviva plant. A couple of  
5   years ago I learned of this plant as part of my  
6   previous position as a career coach for SC Works.  
7   And like many others, I thought that bringing more  
8   jobs to the community would be what's best for the  
9   community. As a career coach for the WIOA and SC  
10  Works, my position was to assist individuals with  
11  the skills they needed like sending them back to  
12  school, finding employment, or both.

13                   I did not know the cost of humanity for  
14  these jobs being placed in the community. These  
15  plants are strategically being placed in  
16  low-income communities where people are already  
17  trying to figure out how to pay their bills, put  
18  food on their tables, and maintain a healthy  
19  mental balance to get through the day. Many of  
20  the children who live in these targeted  
21  communities are predominantly minorities with  
22  underlying health issues, with parents who do not  
23  know the harm that it -- that has entered into  
24  their community.

25                   Enviva employs many people who aren't

1 from South Carolina, so they do not know much  
2 about the beautiful natural resources that we  
3 have. When people who live in these communities  
4 hear the word "expansion," they think that it  
5 means more jobs, a better economy for the  
6 community. Many do not know that this expansion  
7 does not include jobs, and it's inclusive of more  
8 harmful air pollutants that will cause more health  
9 issues for people in these targeted low-income  
10 communities.

11 Most of my life has been in some part  
12 of South Carolina. And all the places that I have  
13 lived are included in that 70- to 75-mile radius  
14 that Enviva currently desecrates. Me being from  
15 McCormick, I appreciate clean air, the water, the  
16 trees, the state parks that provide beauty and  
17 history. All these wonderful natural resources  
18 protect us from climate change. The forest  
19 protects us from ourselves.

20 The people like myself who have lived  
21 here most of our lives do not want to see these  
22 resources beaten and bruised by big corporations  
23 for a few dollars. Lives here are at stake and  
24 people are not up for sale. I live in this  
25 community, and it's a smack in the face to me and

1 my existence. It is in a large part of  
2 environmental racism and continues to separate the  
3 haves from the have-nots. We are all a part of  
4 one race, the human race, and should have more --  
5 and should have a more equitable future for all of  
6 us ahead.

7 I doubt if, excuse me, the people here  
8 today holding this hearing live in the area that's  
9 being affected by pollution, but I think if you  
10 were or your family or your community, what would  
11 you do or want to see? We're already dealing with  
12 a global --

13 (Timer sounds.)

14 -- pandemic that has cost us the lives  
15 of so many. Why would we want to continue to put  
16 more in harm's way?

17 Many people who live in -- many people  
18 who live close to the Enviva plant don't have  
19 access to Internet and aren't able to attend this  
20 virtual hearing. We live in a rural area, and  
21 many folks don't have access to broadband, which  
22 could be the reason that many of them aren't here.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Ms. Brown?

24 MS. BROWN: Yes.

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Will we --

1 could we ask that you complete that statement, and  
2 we would need to move on in order for everyone to  
3 be able to provide comment tonight. But,  
4 certainly, you can provide additional comments in  
5 writing.

6 MS. BROWN: Okay. The last thing I had  
7 was as a state, we say, "While I breathe, I hope."  
8 With industries like this coming into our state  
9 and all of the clearcutting and leaving forests  
10 and wooden areas damaged and torn apart, we cannot  
11 breathe. And without that, there is no hope.  
12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

14 We'll now move on by calling Elizabeth  
15 Kress, followed by Patrick Anderson. Elizabeth  
16 Kress?

17 MS. KRESS: Hello. My name is  
18 Elizabeth Kress. I have 17 years of employment  
19 experience working as an engineer with a variety  
20 of renewable energy projects for utility in South  
21 Carolina. While, you know, solar wind and storage  
22 are exciting technologies, biomass is an important  
23 resource. And I believe that biomass will be even  
24 more important in the future.

25 I have a very good understanding of how

1 our forests and timberlands are held in South  
2 Carolina. It's important that we have markets for  
3 wood in order to keep our forests. If landowners  
4 can't sell trees to pay taxes and property  
5 management, our forests will be sold off. And  
6 these are private landowners, for the most part,  
7 in our state.

8 So having studied the potential for  
9 biomass to energy in South Carolina, along with  
10 the benefits and detriments of biomass and all  
11 other alternative energy sources, here is what I  
12 have learned:

13 We have an adequate forest resource in  
14 South Carolina to support Enviva's plant and even  
15 more, especially when these are spread out into  
16 the areas where wood markets are needed.

17 The timber markets provide a  
18 substantial number of good jobs and income to  
19 private landowners in the local economy.

20 Biomass and pellets for energy provide  
21 a substantial carbon benefit over the coal that  
22 was being used in UK and Europe.

23 Biomass products and energy should be  
24 supported by people who truly care about the  
25 environment and people who take the time to

1 understand the forestry and biomass processes.

2 For these reasons and more, I support  
3 granting the permit to Enviva. Thank you very  
4 much.

5 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.  
6 Patrick Anderson?

7 MR. ANDERSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

9 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.  
10 Hello, my name is Patrick Anderson.  
11 That's P-A-T-R-I-C-K A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I'm an  
12 attorney with the Environmental Integrity Project.  
13 I will also be providing written comments prepared  
14 together with the Southern Environmental Law  
15 Center.

16 But I want to point out a few key  
17 issues. First, I want to be clear that although  
18 the project includes new pollution controls, even  
19 with these controls the expansion will lead to an  
20 increase of several harmful pollutants. And, yes,  
21 while particulate matter emissions from the plant  
22 smokestacks are projected to decrease, they will  
23 only decrease by just 3 percent. Meanwhile, the  
24 fugitive dust that we've heard so much about  
25 tonight will certainly increase.

1                   As DHEC has heard tonight and over the  
2 past several years, numerous neighbors have made  
3 complaints about this fugitive dust, these  
4 emissions from the plants. This is consistent  
5 with what neighbors at most other Enviva plants  
6 report time and again, and it's unacceptable.  
7 Fine wood dust is not only a nuisance, it's a  
8 health hazard. Numerous medical studies have  
9 demonstrated that.

10                   So while I appreciate that DHEC  
11 recently required Enviva to reevaluate its  
12 fugitive dust management plan, the fact is that  
13 the details of this plan have not been made  
14 available to the public for notice and comments,  
15 and it's doubtful the plan will be sufficient to  
16 eliminate these harmful fugitive dust emissions.

17                   Because this dust problem is the main  
18 concern neighbors have expressed to DHEC, the  
19 permit at issue tonight should itself contain  
20 specific, detailed, and enforceable operating  
21 practices; maintenance schedules; and better  
22 monitoring to mitigate or hopefully eliminate this  
23 harmful fugitive dust. Without these  
24 improvements, DHEC should deny the expansion.

25                   One other thing I wanted to discuss is

1 this facility's history of violations for failing  
2 to follow key operating and monitoring conditions  
3 of its existing permit. DHEC recently issued a  
4 compliance order over many significant violations  
5 that occurred on dozens or even hundreds of  
6 occasions. Most significantly, these violations  
7 include unauthorized circumvention of existing  
8 pollution controls that lead to substantial levels  
9 of excess emissions. Unfortunately, many of these  
10 violations were only discovered because DHEC  
11 happened to conduct unannounced inspection at the  
12 right time.

13 To this end, DHEC needs to issue this  
14 facility's Title 5 federal operating permit as  
15 soon as possible. DHEC was legally required to do  
16 so over a year ago but has not. Title 5 federal  
17 operating permits are crucial because they must  
18 contain adequate monitoring, recordkeeping, and  
19 recording requirements to ensure compliance with  
20 all applicable requirements. Issuing the legally  
21 required Title 5 permit would be a significant  
22 step towards ensuring Enviva's future compliance  
23 and also to make sure that violations are not only  
24 discovered --

25 (Timer sounds.)

1 -- when DHEC happens to be on site.

2 Thank you. That's all I have for you  
3 tonight.

4 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

5 We will now call on Nathan McClure,  
6 followed by Varis Woodberry. Nathan, please  
7 unmute, and you can provide your comment. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. BRIGGS: Hey, Monica. Nathan let  
10 us know that he wasn't gonna be able to hang  
11 around, and he provided his comments in written  
12 form.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

14 Virus -- I'm sorry, Varis Woodberry.  
15 Mr. Woodberry, if you would like to provide a  
16 comment, please unmute.

17 We'll move on to Jimmy Corley. Jimmy  
18 Corley?

19 MR. CORLEY: Yes. Can you hear me?

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
21 hear you. Thank you.

22 MR. CORLEY: Okay. Jimmy Corley,  
23 J-I-M-M-Y C-O-R-L-E-Y. I work with Crawford's  
24 Contracting Services, and we are in favor of the  
25 Enviva air construction permit.

1                   As a contractor, we work at a lot of  
2 different facilities, mostly in chemical plants  
3 around the Augusta area. But for over the last  
4 year we have also had work inside the Enviva  
5 Greenwood facility. During that time we've done a  
6 lot of work on various jobs, a lot of which are  
7 for visual improvements to the facility, safety  
8 improvements, and also environmental improvements.  
9 I'd like to note that, as stated before, Enviva  
10 did not build this facility, but they are  
11 committed to move forward and improve and better  
12 their facility. I see this throughout a lot of  
13 the jobs that we get and are doing at their  
14 facility.

15                   So we see this expansion as a positive  
16 move for not only the facility but also the  
17 community and the environment. And that's really  
18 all I have. Thank you for the opportunity to  
19 comment, and we are in favor.

20                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

21                   We will now call on Stephen Stroud.  
22 Please unmute and provide your comment.

23                   MR. STROUD: Yes. Can you hear me now?

24                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes, we can  
25 hear you. Thank you.

1                   MR. STROUD: Good evening. My name is  
2 Stephen Stroud, S-T-E-P-H-E-N S-T-R-O-U-D. I am  
3 the director of environmental affairs with Enviva  
4 and over the last 12 years have spent my career  
5 working in environmental permitting for the  
6 natural resources and wood product industries. At  
7 Enviva, I lead our environmental permitting  
8 affairs. And Enviva is a data-driven company that  
9 has and continues to make substantial investments  
10 in environmental control technologies to reduce  
11 our environmental footprint in the communities  
12 where we operate. I'm here tonight to speak on  
13 behalf of the company in support of the proposed  
14 air permit for the Greenwood plant and, most  
15 importantly, I'm here to address key air quality  
16 points that this permit will cover.

17                   This permit will allow us to install  
18 new control equipment and utilize a more robust  
19 controls as it pertains to the emissions from our  
20 dry hammermills. The permit will reduce all  
21 ozone-forming compounds: nitrogen oxide, carbon  
22 monoxide, and volatile organics as well as  
23 particulate matter of PM, PM10, and PM2.5.  
24 Ultimately, this results in a lessened  
25 environmental footprint and cleaner air in the

1 community.

2           This permit has gone through a thorough  
3 technical review with DHEC which included all  
4 emission calculations, regulatory analysis, and  
5 ambient air quality modeling. The air quality  
6 modeling results show compliance with all ambient  
7 air quality standards in the future state of the  
8 facility. This permit also includes stringent  
9 compliance testing. And this investment of  
10 capital and our company's resources' allocations  
11 demonstrate our strong environmental and  
12 compliance leadership in the industry as the  
13 world's largest wood pellet manufacturer.

14           Recently, DHEC installed two fine  
15 particulate matter ambient air quality stations of  
16 PM2.5 in close proximity to our facility. The  
17 monitoring conducted by DHEC is for the entire  
18 surrounding area, not solely of the Enviva  
19 facility. The data collected by these monitors  
20 demonstrates that the current air ambient quality  
21 is well below the federal standards and  
22 significantly less than historic fine particulate  
23 ambient air quality standards monitors that was  
24 conducted in Greenwood, South Carolina --

25           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's been more

1 than three minutes. This is way beyond anyone  
2 else's, and you're just reading.

3 (Timer sounds.)

4 MR. STROUD: This facility has and  
5 always has operated with a valid and legal  
6 operating permit. Thank you for the opportunity  
7 to speak and address the public as it pertains to  
8 this application.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for  
10 your comment.

11 And we would like to remind  
12 participants we would like for you to please  
13 continue to have your mics muted while others are  
14 providing comments.

15 We will now move on with Jaime  
16 Wisinggarver.

17 MS. WISEGARVER: Hi. My name is Jaime  
18 Wisegarver. That's J-A-I-M-E W-I-S-E-G-A-R-V, as  
19 in Victor, E-R. And I'm an attorney with the U.S.  
20 Industrial Pellet Association or USIPA. USIPA is  
21 a not-for-profit trade association. We're based  
22 in Richmond, Virginia. USIPA promotes  
23 sustainability and safety practices within the  
24 U.S. wood energy industry. Our membership  
25 includes large-scale producers of sustainable wood

1 biomass across the southeast. Enviva is one of  
2 our founding members.

3           As you consider Enviva's permit  
4 application, I would like to emphasize to the  
5 Department of Health and Environmental Control  
6 that leading scientific authorities and real world  
7 data confirm the positive benefits of wood biomass  
8 for the climate, our environment, and rural  
9 economies just like Greenwood. According to the  
10 world's foremost climate experts, wood bioenergy  
11 limits global warming by replacing fossil fuels  
12 and keeping our forests intact. This was the  
13 conclusion of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on  
14 Climate Change, the IPCC, which is widely  
15 considered to be the global authority on climate  
16 science. The IPCC makes clear that forests and  
17 forest products have an essential role to play in  
18 mitigating climate change.

19           In its August 2019 special report on  
20 land and climate, the IPCC indicated that  
21 bioenergy and sustainable forestry are critical  
22 components in keeping the earth's warming below  
23 1.5 degrees celsius. Specifically, the IPCC  
24 stated that sustainable forest management, quote,  
25 "Aimed at storing carbon while yielding timber,

1 fiber, and bioenergy will produce the best results  
2 for the climate." Wood biomass also benefits the  
3 environment by strengthening the market for  
4 forestry. It provides additional income to  
5 landowners to help them keep planting trees versus  
6 converting their land to other uses. It's because  
7 of these strong markets that data from the U.S.  
8 Department of Agriculture shows that forest  
9 inventory, an area in the United States southeast,  
10 have steadily increased since the mid 1950s, and  
11 forest carbon stocks have more than doubled.

12 Wood biomass is a meaningful but small  
13 part of the overall forest economy. It accounts  
14 for only 3 percent of all wood harvested each year  
15 across the southeast. Thus, it's easy to see why  
16 our forests continue to remain stable, productive,  
17 and healthy, even as they provide a steady supply  
18 of renewable forest products, which include  
19 biomass.

20 Finally, biomass provides a vital  
21 support of economic support for communities like  
22 Greenwood. Enviva has already invested millions  
23 of dollars in South Carolina, and its Greenwood  
24 plant currently supports more than 250 jobs.  
25 Enviva estimates that it creates a total annual

1 economic impact in the region of approximately  
2 \$115 million.

3 (Timer sounds.)

4 The science and the facts show us that  
5 an approved permit and expansion at the Greenwood  
6 facility would allow Enviva to continue fighting  
7 climate change and, thus, we support the approval  
8 of the permit. Thank you very much.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

10 We now call on Brandon Smith. Brandon  
11 Smith?

12 We'll move on to Brad Thompson. Brad  
13 Thompson, Junior?

14 MR. THOMPSON: Can you hear me?

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you so much. This  
17 is Brad Thompson, Junior. That's spelled B-R-A-D  
18 T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N. Thank you for the opportunity.

19 I live in Greenwood, and I represent  
20 the South Carolina Chapter of the Association of  
21 Consulting Foresters. We are a national  
22 organization of advisors to forest landowners.  
23 It's highly likely that a consultant forester has  
24 been involved at some point in the management of  
25 almost every private forest in South Carolina. A

1 consultant forester serves as the primary advisor  
2 to private landowners. We help these owners  
3 plant, grow, and market their timber. The growth  
4 of our business has actually mirrored the growth  
5 and forest cover in South Carolina, because it's  
6 well-known that forestland cover in South Carolina  
7 has increased dramatically over the past  
8 100 years. We are proud that our clients are from  
9 all income levels and races. It goes without  
10 saying that we all seek sustainability, whether  
11 it's sustainable forestry or sustainable  
12 manufacturing.

13 I'm here to offer our association's  
14 support for Enviva's air quality permit. We know  
15 that increased production in Enviva provides  
16 private landowners confidence in keeping their  
17 forests as forests. Urbanization and  
18 fragmentation in the Upstate are leading to less  
19 forestland. Fragmentation of forests reduces  
20 their ability to maintain forest health and  
21 provide ecosystem services such as clean water,  
22 wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and clean  
23 air. Again, I'll say it again. Fragmentation of  
24 forests reduces forest ability to maintain forest  
25 health and provide ecosystem services such as

1 clean water, wildlife habitat, carbon  
2 sequestration, and clean air.

3 Enviva's timber demand does not  
4 encourage landowners to clearcut mature timber.  
5 Actually, what Enviva's demand has allowed us  
6 foresters to grow mature forests and actually keep  
7 those mature forests healthy from drought and  
8 insect threats. These forests are highly diverse  
9 and host an array of wildlife. Every property  
10 that we manage has a hunting club paying for the  
11 right to hunt land. There's almost zero turnover  
12 among these clubs, so there must be a great deal  
13 of wildlife there for them to enjoy pursuing and  
14 for feeding their families.

15 There's no -- there's no wood mill more  
16 diligent in ensuring that harvesting is done  
17 sustainably with regard to water quality, so I am  
18 surprised really to hear these comments attacking  
19 Enviva's environmental practices. Trees used by  
20 Enviva today were planted a decade or more in the  
21 past. We support the continued investment in  
22 forest products manufacturing --

23 (Timer sounds.)

24 -- to give landowners confidence in  
25 keeping their forests as forests for decades to

1     come.  I thank you so much.

2                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR:  Thank you.

3                   We will now go back to Ms. Wendi  
4     Andrews.  If you would like to provide a comment  
5     at this time, Ms. Andrews, we'd like to call on  
6     you.

7                   MS. ANDREWS:  Yes.  Thank you.  My name  
8     is Wendi Andrews.  That's W-E-N-D-I A-N-D-R-E-W-S.

9                   So I reserved my comments because I was  
10    listening to -- I wanted to have an opportunity to  
11    get -- to listen to the input from the community  
12    as far as what they were thinking, both those of  
13    the forestry industry that has more knowledge than  
14    I do, as well as the concerned citizens in the  
15    community.  So having listened to all of that, I  
16    will say that, you know, I am concerned about the  
17    air quality.  I represent the Food Bank of  
18    Greenwood County, and our focus is addressing food  
19    insecurity to the residents of Greenwood County.  
20    We focus primarily on our most vulnerable  
21    populations, our children and our senior citizens.  
22    So I have -- I've listened to the concerns of the  
23    neighbors, and that concerns me as well.

24                   Having said that, I also know very well  
25    Croft Hollingsworth, who is the plant manager of

1 Enviva. And I've had the pleasure of meeting  
2 Chris Brown. So having listened to all of the  
3 concerns and the violations, I know that those two  
4 gentlemen will work diligently to improve the  
5 processes that are great concerns as far as the  
6 pollutants in the air for the community because  
7 they are concerned about those around them. And  
8 if this expansion can help improve the air  
9 quality, then I support that 100 percent. So I'm  
10 going to trust that they're going to do what they  
11 said that they're going to do and that they're  
12 committed, as I know that they are personally.  
13 And for that reason, I'm going to support  
14 providing the permit for Enviva.

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for  
16 your comment.

17 At this time, I want to just give you a  
18 brief reminder that if you have not been able to  
19 provide your full comment tonight in the time  
20 allotted, you can do so by contacting us at the  
21 address provided on the screen now, and you can  
22 provide your comment in writing. For those who  
23 may have had any issues unmuting, you can also  
24 provide comments via the address that we have  
25 provided. We also have a phone call-in number if

1 there is an issue with unmuting via your computer.  
2 Please feel free to call in to the number that we  
3 have provided on the screen. This has given us  
4 multiple ways to reach out to everyone who would  
5 like to comment during this hearing. So we wanted  
6 to make sure that you all had all of this  
7 information.

8 This now concludes everyone who has  
9 preregistered to speak. Before we begin to hear  
10 from other attendees who have decided that they  
11 would like to comment, our tech host, Lawra Boyce,  
12 will give instructions on commenting from your  
13 remote location. Lawra?

14 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Yes. Thanks,  
15 Monica.

16 So as Monica noted, it is important  
17 that we hear from all of you who are interested in  
18 commenting in the time we have tonight. There are  
19 two ways to comment or request to speak: You can  
20 raise your hand by clicking on the hand icon in  
21 the floating toolbar or you can unmute your line,  
22 and we will know to call on you. If you're  
23 dialing into the meeting from your phone, press  
24 star six to unmute instead of using the phone's  
25 mute button. By pressing star six, it allows us

1 to know that you would like to speak.

2           Once you've unmuted, please refrain  
3 from speaking until you are called on by either  
4 your name or the last four digits of your phone  
5 number. If we experience a lot of background  
6 noise, we may need to mute lines. So when it is  
7 your turn to speak, please clearly state and spell  
8 your name. If for some reason you are  
9 experiencing difficulty with muting or unmuting  
10 your line, we do encourage you, as Monica said, to  
11 submit your comments via e-mail to  
12 [airpncomments@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:airpncomments@dhec.sc.gov) or mail to the addresses  
13 that have been provided on the web page in the  
14 public notice and on the screen right now on Slide  
15 29.

16           Also, as Monica mentioned earlier,  
17 anything typed into the chat box is subject to be  
18 included in the record of the public hearing.  
19 However, it would not be considered an official  
20 comment. We encourage all written comments to be  
21 submitted via e-mail or mail at the addresses  
22 provided.

23           So with that, we will go ahead and get  
24 started. I will call on those who have indicated  
25 they would like to speak. And the first one that

1 we will call on is Carol Quarrels. Ms. Quarrels,  
2 please unmute your line and begin by stating your  
3 name clearly. Ms. Quarrels, you will have three  
4 minutes once you begin.

5 Okay. We'll try to come back to  
6 Ms. Quarrels.

7 Next, we will go to phone number ending  
8 in 2604. 2604, please state your name and spell  
9 it for the court reporter, and then proceed with  
10 your comment.

11 MR. BOATRIGHT: Hello. Yes, this is  
12 Xavier Boatright, X-A-V-I-E-R B-O-A-T-R-I-G-H-T.  
13 I'm with the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign.  
14 I'm an organized representative. And I have --  
15 and I apologize for that. I have -- and I just --  
16 it's shocking to me to hear the comments from  
17 these neighbors. I spent some time in North  
18 Carolina around the Northampton facility, there's  
19 an Enviva plant there, and knew many allies in  
20 that community who say some of these same things.

21 And I just feel as though right now  
22 with our current COVID reality, the folks talking  
23 about wealth, I think we need to, before approving  
24 this permit -- I'm opposing this permit at this  
25 time because before we can move forward with any

1 expansions, I think we have to attend to these  
2 issues that we're hearing from the community  
3 today. I believe in loving thy neighbor. I know  
4 we say Enviva is doing their best, but if you look  
5 at their other plants, some of the known  
6 violations at the Greenwood plant but also at  
7 other facilities.

8           And the replication of these narratives  
9 at their other facilities, there is a true issue  
10 with the dust. And according to a Harvard School  
11 of Public Health, increased long-term exposure to  
12 fine particulate matter can lead to increased  
13 COVID death. And so with our current reality  
14 right now, these folks, it sounds like these  
15 neighbors, these South Carolinians, they need help  
16 from, you know, Enviva. They're doing their best,  
17 and we need to support Enviva to completely  
18 protect these folks from the existing  
19 infrastructure before we can move forward.

20           So I urge DHEC not to approve this  
21 permit until we can best protect these neighbors  
22 and the folks who are living by it and encourage  
23 others to develop dialogue and relationships with  
24 the community to learn how we can best protect our  
25 fellow South Carolinians. Thank you for this time

1 and opportunity.

2 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker will be phone number  
4 ending in 5134. Please state your name clearly,  
5 and you will have three minutes to present your  
6 comment. Phone number 5134.

7 MS. GREENLAW: Okay. All right. So  
8 you can hear me?

9 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Yes, we can.  
10 Please proceed.

11 MS. GREENLAW: Okay. My name is Pamela  
12 Greenlaw. And I've been watching for a while how  
13 agencies such as DHEC handle things in different  
14 ways. There is a way to look at what's going on  
15 around us that is beyond just the pencil pushing  
16 here.

17 I'm going to -- I want to urge  
18 communities and nonprofits to watch the film  
19 called "Dark Waters." It's about corporate  
20 investments in communities that give with one hand  
21 and take away with the other. I don't doubt at  
22 all the sincerity of the volunteers who are  
23 employees of Enviva when they go and they want to  
24 help with the Boys & Girls Club. That's  
25 wonderful. But that's not the reason for the

1 existence of Enviva, and they have to put first  
2 things first. Corporations often will establish  
3 foundations and they collect donations so they can  
4 do the good deeds. But they're not -- Enviva  
5 right now is not operating in good faith. We see  
6 that there have been multiple noncompliance  
7 issues, serious ones.

8 I'm going to refer to what I'm working  
9 on with the people here in South Carolina, and  
10 that's the Westinghouse nuclear fuel fabrication  
11 plant. The Air Bureau might do well looking at  
12 what DHEC's site assessment remediation area is  
13 doing. They put together a consent agreement, and  
14 they expected, they expected Westinghouse plant to  
15 pony up and do right. And guess what, they're  
16 doing it. They've collected additional -- they've  
17 put out extra monitors that actually give solid  
18 scientific data. They've had it assessed,  
19 analyzed independently. And they are moving  
20 forward slowly.

21 The Westinghouse plant, of course, it's  
22 not, you know, forestry, but it's just a case in  
23 point. They are -- they put in a permit  
24 application. They withdrew it. They're redoing  
25 it. This is what I suggest Enviva does. They

1 have the money to do this. They just purchased --  
2 they're expanding in Georgia and Mississippi.  
3 They're making money hand over fist. They're  
4 sending pellets overseas, where the pellets are  
5 burned, and they're polluting. So that's -- it's  
6 not just polluting here, polluting over there  
7 where they're being burned.

8                   So we really have to call them to  
9 account, ask them to remove the permit, to expand.  
10 Make them behave. Make them do what they're  
11 supposed to do. Take care of the community.

12                   (Timer sounds.)

13                   It doesn't help -- I'm sorry. Let me  
14 finish this. You can't have parts of the  
15 community that are helped and other parts that are  
16 throwaway. We call those "sacrifice zones." The  
17 people who are disposable don't get -- aren't  
18 getting help from DHEC if you're insisting that  
19 the particulate, the dust that they're dealing  
20 with, is something you cannot handle. Yes, you  
21 can. Get some help.

22                   But I do not support this permit at  
23 this time. They need to withdraw it. And you  
24 need to call them to account, make them do the  
25 right thing. Thank you very much.

1                   TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you,  
2 Ms. Greenlaw.

3                   Our next person up to comment is phone  
4 number ending in 8008. 8008, please state your  
5 name clearly and proceed with your comment, and  
6 you will have three minutes.

7                   MS. CESAFSKY: Hi, good evening. My  
8 name is Kim Cesafsky, K-I-M C-E-S, as in Sam, A-F,  
9 as in Frank, S-K-Y. And I'm the director of  
10 sustainability policy for Enviva. By way of  
11 background, I have masters' degrees in forestry  
12 and environmental management from Duke University,  
13 and I'm an expert in forest supply chains and  
14 sustainability. I'm here tonight to speak in  
15 support of this permit and share my views on  
16 sustainability at Enviva.

17                   We at Enviva, we're proud to be a part  
18 of the robust and longstanding southern forest  
19 products industry, which is our country's oldest  
20 natural resource industry and, arguably, our  
21 biggest sustainability success story. We take  
22 great care to ensure that our plants are located  
23 in areas with an abundant supply of wood from  
24 working timberlands and that our sourcing  
25 practices support the health, longevity, and

1 carbon storage potential of southern forests. We  
2 do this in a responsible, safe, and sustainable  
3 manner.

4           The benefits of biomass are clear.  
5 Good biomass like Enviva's comes from wood sourced  
6 sustainably as a byproduct of a traditional timber  
7 harvest from a region with stable or increasing  
8 forest carbon stocks. According to data from the  
9 U.S. Forest Service, we can confidently state that  
10 forest inventory and, thus, forest carbon storage  
11 is increasing in all of our sourcing regions.

12           Each year across the U.S. south, only 2  
13 percent of the working forestland is harvested,  
14 while the remaining 98 percent of the forestland  
15 continues to grow and store carbon. And biomass  
16 demand makes up only 3 percent of the total amount  
17 of wood harvested across the south every year.

18           Specific to South Carolina, forests are  
19 growing there faster than they're being harvested.  
20 Across the nearly 13 million acres of working  
21 forestland in the state, they're adding carbon  
22 year over year. For every 1 ton of wood removed  
23 from the forest every year in South Carolina,  
24 another 1.26 tons of woods are regrowing. Enviva  
25 also doesn't purchase wood from any harvest that

1 will not return to forest after the harvest has  
2 taken place, and that's a requirement of our  
3 responsible sourcing policy.

4           Turning to climate benefits and  
5 sustainable bioenergy, it's important to point out  
6 that leading academics and climate scientists  
7 worldwide, they agree that markets supported by  
8 wood bioenergy protect and grow forests. The  
9 UN IPCC wrote a report in 2018 explaining that --  
10 you know, I guess now today we only have ten years  
11 to mitigate the worst effects of climate change,  
12 and bioenergy is included in every single one of  
13 their pathways towards a desirable future. The  
14 scientific experts in energy systems the world  
15 over recognize that biomass is really one of the  
16 pillars of a sustainable climate future. And,  
17 also, forward-thinking countries, they're  
18 recognizing this and they've turned to bioenergy  
19 to meet their climate commitments. In Europe,  
20 biomass represents more than 60 percent of  
21 renewable energy consumption, and it's a key part  
22 of the strategy for meeting ambitious carbon  
23 reduction goals.

24           I invite you all to take a look at  
25 Enviva's responsible sourcing policy and to hold

1 us accountable for doing what we said we would do.

2 (Timer sounds.)

3 We're proud of -- we're proud of our  
4 record of conserving forests, investing in  
5 restoration, and assisting landowners in  
6 certification. We look forward to being part of  
7 the South Carolina community for years to come.  
8 Thank you very much.

9 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Mr. Mike Meetze.  
11 Mr. Meetze, please speak your name clearly, spell  
12 it for the court reporter, and proceed with your  
13 comment. You will have three minutes.

14 MR. MEETZE: Yes, ma'am. My name is  
15 Michael Meetze. Meetze is spelled M-E-E-T-Z-E.  
16 And I'm the chairman of the State Tree Farm  
17 Committee. I'm also a landowner in Newberry  
18 County. And I'm also a registered professional  
19 engineer that began his career at DHEC, 1980.  
20 We're -- I'm here as a representative of the Tree  
21 Farm System in South Carolina to support the  
22 Enviva expansion. The South Carolina Tree Farm  
23 System is a grassroots organization of family  
24 farms, representing approximately a thousand  
25 members, representing also about 350,000 of

1 certified acres, that being certified to standards  
2 that meet any of the new green -- green issues.

3 As stated earlier, Enviva has been a  
4 great corporate community member and has provided  
5 additional outlets for underutilized wood. The  
6 key to manage and sustaining a forest as to  
7 sequester the most carbon as possible is keeping  
8 that forest growing and healthy. A nongrowing  
9 forest does not sequester carbon. It actually  
10 starts releasing it after it starts dying.

11 The pellet mill helps with climate  
12 change in two ways: by keeping a growing forest  
13 and keeping it sequestering carbon to its fullest  
14 extent; and, also, the pellets are used as a  
15 substitute for coal, which also helps with climate  
16 revisions.

17 Again, I'm in support of Enviva's  
18 expansion and appreciate the opportunity to get to  
19 speak tonight. Thank you.

20 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Meetze.

22 Ms. Slater, we see that you have your  
23 hand raised, and you've already spoken. We want  
24 to make sure we have enough time for others to  
25 speak. But is there somebody else with you that

1 may be interested in speaking?

2 MS. SLATER: Yes.

3 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Okay. Make  
4 sure you get close to the microphone, and state  
5 your name clearly for the court reporter. You  
6 will have three minutes.

7 MR. WOODBERRY: My name is Varis  
8 Woodberry. It's spelled V, as in Victor, A-R-I-S;  
9 last name Woodberry, W-O-O-D-B-E-R-R-Y. I am with  
10 Kingdom Living Temple and New Alpha CDC. I do not  
11 support the permit for Enviva. I already  
12 submitted my comment, and I have no further  
13 comment. Thank you.

14 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you,  
15 Ms. Woodberry.

16 Next, we have Jim Potts, who has  
17 indicated he would like to speak. Mr. Potts,  
18 please state your name clearly for the court  
19 reporter, and you will have three minutes.

20 MR. POTTS: Jim Potts. Can you hear  
21 me?

22 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Yes, sir.

23 MR. POTTS: Okay. It's J-I-M  
24 P-O-T-T-S. I'm a forest consultant for 55 years.  
25 And nobody has expressed the biological growth of

1 forests and the carbon sequestered.

2 But loblolly pine, which is basically  
3 what Eniva and most pulp mills around here use,  
4 have roughly the life cycle of humans. The  
5 teenagers are the fastest growing trees, and  
6 they're the ones that sequestered the carbon.  
7 Once the trees get 25 to 30 years old, like  
8 humans, they start deteriorating and going  
9 downhill. Once the trees get 50 to 60 years old,  
10 they start using more oxygen than they -- than  
11 they put out because of all the rot and the limbs  
12 and the bark and everything that's rotting from  
13 the bacteria and the other creatures that are  
14 eating and rotting in the wood. So if trees  
15 aren't thinned, then they will deteriorate a lot  
16 faster than normal. And if you go into a forest  
17 that's over 25 or 30 years old that's never been  
18 thinned, there's rot laying all on the ground  
19 everywhere. So we need to be able to thin the  
20 trees.

21 And they only clearcut when they reach  
22 maturity, and that's 25, 30, 40 years old. And  
23 they almost always planted them back in South  
24 Carolina, and we plant more back than we cut. And  
25 that's why we're growing more wood every year than

1 is being cut. So to keep the forests healthy, we  
2 must have a market to thin out the diseased, the  
3 crooked, and the trees that are suppressed so that  
4 the others can grow and be healthy and not get  
5 pine needles and the other diseases and bugs that  
6 get into the trees. Thank you.

7 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you.

8 Is Lynn Hendricks on the line? Lynn  
9 Hendricks is the next to speak. If you are able  
10 to unmute, it's star six. Also, if you're on the  
11 computer, you can push the microphone icon to  
12 unmute. You will have three minutes. Please  
13 state your name clearly for the court reporter.  
14 Lynn Hendricks.

15 Okay. We might come back to  
16 Ms. Hendricks.

17 Is Brandon Smith available? Star six  
18 to unmute if you're on the phone or click the  
19 microphone icon on your computer screen.

20 Okay. Mr. Smith, we were not hearing  
21 you. We'll try to come back to you also.

22 I see someone that is listed as an  
23 unknown user, but it has the microphone unmuted.  
24 Please state your name clearly. You will have  
25 three minutes to speak.

1 MS. LIVINGSTON: Yes. My name is Kayla  
2 Livingston, K-A-Y-L-A L-I-V-I-N-G-S-T-O-N. And I  
3 am very much opposed to this permit.

4 I live across the street from the  
5 plant, just up the road going toward Fujifilm. My  
6 husband and I have owned this house for 12 years,  
7 but over the last couple of years we've had a lot  
8 of issues. We've had, of course, the particulate  
9 matter that everyone has spoken about has been a  
10 major issue. We've had issues with it being on  
11 our roof, on our vehicles, all over our son's  
12 toys. There were periods of times where we  
13 weren't able to spend any time outdoors because of  
14 it. We both have to take Zyrtec every day and  
15 have for the last two years, and that was not  
16 something we had to do the ten years before that.

17 There have been extreme issues with  
18 noise. Particularity at night, the plant seems to  
19 be making a humming noise that keeps us and  
20 especially our 8-year-old son up at night.

21 There's beating and banging on the railroad cars,  
22 which I've heard other people mention. There is  
23 also issues with -- just the noise is unbearable  
24 for the most part.

25 It's just really been difficult for us.

1 In general, there are times when there are log  
2 trucks lined up and down the road waiting to get  
3 into the plant. They live -- they leave large  
4 chunks of wood in the road right in front of our  
5 house on 246 that we end up -- it ends up in our  
6 yard because people run over it, and then we cut  
7 it up with the lawn mower. That's posed a lot of  
8 issues for lawn mower blades.

9 I've heard no single person that lives  
10 in the vicinity of this plant support this  
11 ridiculous permit. I understand that you want to  
12 improve things, but you have tied improving things  
13 in with a permit to produce more. It's all about  
14 money, and you care nothing about the people that  
15 live around this plant. There is no sense in  
16 allowing this permit to go through to produce more  
17 when you cannot even control the emissions that  
18 are currently being produced. That makes no  
19 sense. If you want to put in new sensors, new  
20 ways to decrease the particulate matters, then do  
21 that. But do not increase production. That makes  
22 no sense, and it's not fair to those of us who  
23 live around here whose land no longer has value,  
24 whose homes no longer have value. I can't sell my  
25 house. I can't sell my land. No one wants to

1 live across the street from that plant.

2 This has become a major issue for  
3 everyone in this area. We appreciate Chris Brown  
4 trying to come out and talk with us, give cards,  
5 things like that. But that's not gonna cut it.  
6 It's not fair to increase production, for us to  
7 continue to suffer health loss, sleep loss, sanity  
8 loss because we live across the street from this  
9 terrible plant. Please do not increase  
10 production. Please make more efforts to do your  
11 part in reducing the emissions that are produced  
12 by this plant and make this a liveable area for  
13 generations to come, like my son, who's going to  
14 be raised in this area. Thank you.

15 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you,  
16 Ms. Livingston.

17 I want to go back to Florence Anoruo  
18 that was called on previously. Florence Anoruo,  
19 if you are available, please unmute your line  
20 using start six if you're on the phone or press  
21 the microphone if you're on your computer.

22 Okay. We will go back to Lynn  
23 Hendricks.

24 Brandon Smith?

25 I see one other unknown user that has

1 their microphone unmuted. Please state your name  
2 clearly, and you will have three minutes for your  
3 comment.

4 Okay. I'll give you one more  
5 opportunity. We have someone else that has  
6 unmuted. It is phone number with the last four  
7 digits of 6909. Please state your name clearly,  
8 spell your name, and you will have three minutes  
9 for your comment.

10 DR. ANORUO: This is Dr. Florence  
11 Anoruo. First name is F-L-O-R-E-N-C-E; last name  
12 is A-N-O-R-U-O. I'm a plant physiologist, an  
13 environmental scientist, and environmental justice  
14 advocate.

15 And my comment is that during this  
16 pandemic it has been known throughout the nation  
17 that black and brown communities have been  
18 adversely affected by COVID-19. And the big  
19 reason for that is because of all the factors that  
20 they have been unjustly impacted by, ranging from  
21 pollution to food insecurity to access to health  
22 care. And this time, it's the wrong time to put  
23 any other additional adverse impact on these  
24 communities. With the expansion of Enviva at this  
25 time, that would adversely impact the health of

1 those communities and environments. And I am  
2 joining a large group of other scientists and  
3 organizations to ask that the permit be halted  
4 during this time while we're -- people are still  
5 suffering from the pandemic and trying to figure  
6 out how they're going to survive and live with all  
7 the other environmental health issues they are  
8 facing.

9           So we are asking and joining others in  
10 a collective voice to ask that the permit be  
11 halted for now and also that the Enviva also look  
12 at the impact of their actions and the (inaudible)  
13 in these communities, what it's -- how it's  
14 affecting the lives of the people.

15           And I hope that also the time that  
16 people will have opportunity to air their views  
17 about what is going on in their communities should  
18 be taken into consideration. The cumulative  
19 effects of these impacts along with what's already  
20 happening now should all be taken into  
21 consideration when these permits are given, and  
22 this is the wrong time. There are a lot of cases  
23 of cancer and other health-related effects in  
24 these communities, and these people cannot afford  
25 to be exposed to any more pollution of any kind.

1 So we're asking for an injunction on the  
2 permitting of any expansion or establishment of  
3 any wood pellet facility in this neighborhood at  
4 this time. Thank you.

5 TECHNOLOGY HOST BOYCE: Thank you. I'm  
6 glad you were able to call in.

7 At this time, I see no other unmuted  
8 lines. I would like to give an opportunity for  
9 anyone else who has not already spoken to unmute  
10 your line by using star six on your phone or the  
11 microphone icon on your computer, and we will call  
12 on you in order.

13 Monica, I see no other attendees  
14 indicating they would like to make an oral comment  
15 at this time. Would you like to proceed?

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes. Thank  
17 you, Lawra.

18 Thank you, Kristy.

19 There are no other attendees who would  
20 like to make a comment. The comment portion of  
21 tonight's public hearing is now concluded.

22 Please note once again any comments  
23 made via the chat box during tonight's public  
24 hearing will not serve as an official comment on  
25 record, and the agency will not respond to any

1 written comments posted in the chat box. However,  
2 anything typed into the chat box is subject to be  
3 included in the record of the public hearing.

4 All written comments for official  
5 records may be submitted to DHEC by mail or by  
6 e-mail through August 27th, 2020. Comments should  
7 be addressed to the attention of the Bureau of Air  
8 Quality public notice coordinator. Once the  
9 public comment period closes, DHEC will review and  
10 consider all comments received prior to making a  
11 final decision. Additional information may also  
12 be requested from the applicant. Once a final  
13 decision is made, a summary response to written  
14 comments will be posted on our web page and  
15 provided to everyone on our mailing list.

16 You have the right to request a final  
17 review of any permit decision made by DHEC. The  
18 final review request must be submitted in writing  
19 to DHEC's clerk of the board along with a filing  
20 fee in the amount of \$100 within 15 calendar days  
21 after notice of DHEC's permit decision has been  
22 made.

23 In consideration of these requirements,  
24 you will receive notification of DHEC's permit  
25 decision by standard U.S. mail or by e-mail. If

1 you wish to be notified of DHEC's decision by  
2 certified mail instead, please make your request  
3 in writing no later than August 27th, 2020.

4           Finally, there is a link on our web  
5 page to the public hearing survey Lawra mentioned  
6 earlier. We are interested in knowing your  
7 thoughts and suggestions about tonight's virtual  
8 public hearing and how DHEC can improve the way we  
9 communicate and share information with you.  
10 Please take a moment to complete this survey  
11 within the next couple of days.

12           On behalf of DHEC, I would again like  
13 to thank you for your attendance and your comments  
14 this evening. The time is now 9:28 p.m., and this  
15 hearing is officially adjourned. Thank you and  
16 good night.

17           (The public hearing was concluded at  
18 9:28 p.m.)

19           (This transcript may contain quoted  
20 material. Such material is reproduced as read or  
21 quoted by the speaker.)

22  
23  
24  
25

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. )  
2 COUNTY OF HORRY ) CERTIFICATE

3

4

5 Be it known that Alison Peterson took  
6 the foregoing proceeding and hereby attests:

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

11 That the foregoing transcript  
12 represents a true, accurate, and complete  
13 transcription of the testimony so given at the  
14 time and place aforesaid to the best of my skill  
15 and ability;

16 That I am neither a relative nor an  
17 employee of any of the parties hereto, nor of any  
18 attorney or counsel employed by the parties  
19 hereto, nor interested in the outcome of this  
20 action;

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

23

24

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29

Alison N. Peterson,  
Court Reporter  
My Commission expires  
April 11, 2023