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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: All right. The time is now 7:18 p.m. on Monday, October 30, 2023, and the public hearing regarding the Draft Synthetic Minor Air Construction Permit for Silfab Solar is called to order. For the record, this facility proposed location is 7149 Logistics Lane in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

My name is Monica Taylor. I'm the Public Participation Coordinator for the Bureau of Air Quality. Tonight, I will serve as the hearing officer. On behalf of DHEC, again, thank you all for being here this evening.

Before I go -- before I go over how we will proceed, there's just a few items I'd like to address. First, I would like to ask that you please silence your cell phones or other electronic devices so that we do not disturb others during the hearing. Next, if you have not already done so, we encourage each -- each and every one of you who are in attendance to sign the attendance sheet located at the sign-in table. By signing in, this will ensure that DHEC has a complete record of all in attendance at this hearing. We will ask for your mailing address or e-mail address on the sign-in

1 sheet so that we can notify you of any future
2 information regarding Silfab.

3 I would also like to point out the court
4 reporter, who is seated to my right. They will
5 record the comments you make tonight and prepare a
6 written transcript. The transcript will serve as
7 an official record of this public hearing.

8 A decision to grant or deny the air permit has
9 not been made and will not be made here tonight.
10 The purpose of this hearing is for you to provide
11 comments to be considered before a final decision
12 is made.

13 The draft air construction permit has been
14 written to show Silfab intends to construct and
15 operate in compliance with South Carolina state and
16 federal air quality regulations. These regulations
17 are in place to protect human health and to ensure
18 that air quality standards are maintained.

19 Please note that your comments are an
20 important part of our permitting process, so we
21 invite you to express your comments and concerns
22 formally for the record. The information you will
23 share will be received and -- we will receive and
24 may provide DHEC staff with additional factors to
25 consider when making a final decision. If you

1 choose not to speak tonight, you may also submit
2 written comments to DHEC by Friday, November 3rd of
3 2023.

4 So that this hearing moves forward in a timely
5 manner, the following guidelines has been
6 established. There will be no questions or answers
7 during or after a comment. All comments will be
8 made from the microphone situated here in the
9 center of the room. So that everyone has the
10 opportunity to speak, your comments should not go
11 over three minutes, and time may not be transferred
12 to another speaker. Our staff members on the front
13 row will remind you when you've reached one -- one
14 minute remaining and again when you have 30 seconds
15 remaining. If you are not able to present your
16 comments within that three minutes or you do not
17 wish to speak at the public hearing, please
18 remember you still have the opportunity to submit
19 your comments and questions in writing to DHEC by
20 November 3rd of this year, and they will be entered
21 into the record just as the comments from this --
22 from speakers here tonight.

23 As stated previously, each person's input is
24 important to us. I ask that you -- you be
25 respectful of those presenting information, making

1 comments, and follow the time limit that has been
2 set. Asking the audience, DHEC staff, or a Silfab
3 representative to respond to any comments or answer
4 any questions is not appropriate for this hearing.
5 We would also like to advise you that approval or
6 denial of the permit will not be based upon a vote
7 of how many people say the same thing.

8 Should any comments or actions begin to move --
9 move away from the intent of this hearing, I may
10 ask the speaker to conclude their statement and be
11 seated. While DHEC understands that there is a
12 variety of concerns and the focus -- the focus of
13 this hearing is on the technical merit of the air
14 permit.

15 This hearing will proceed in the following
16 order. First, David Nasol will give a summary of
17 the Draft Minor Air Construction Permit. Then we
18 will randomly call on those who have indicated at
19 sign-in that they would like to make a comment. If
20 you have decided that you no longer wish to make a
21 comment when we call you, you may decline to do so
22 at that time. Anyone who has decided during the
23 course of the evening that they would like to make
24 a comment but did not indicate that at sign-in by
25 checking the box on the sign-in sheet will be

1 called upon randomly by raising their hand. Please
2 remember that this time will only be for those who
3 have not already spoken.

4 We will now call on David of the Bureau of Air
5 Quality, who will give a summary of the Draft
6 Synthetic Minor Air Construction Permit.

7 MR. NASOL: Silfab Solar has applied to the Department
8 for an air construction permit to install and
9 operate a new facility for the manufacturing of
10 solar cells and panels. A draft permit and draft
11 statement of basis have been written outlining this
12 proposed project and applicable regulations. This
13 permit will enable the facility to construct and
14 operate in compliance with state and federal air
15 quality regulations. The permit includes federally
16 enforceable facility-wide limits to remain below
17 major source thresholds for both the Title V
18 Operating Permit regulations and Hazardous Air
19 Pollutants. The limits are less than 10 tons per
20 year of any single hazardous air pollutant and less
21 than 25 tons per year of total hazardous air
22 pollutants.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you, David. We will now
24 hear from those of you who indicated at sign-in
25 that you would like to make a comment. You will be

1 called on -- upon randomly. Please clearly speak
2 your name, first and last, for the court reporter.
3 If you have written comments -- if you have a copy
4 of your written comments that you do not mind
5 leaving with us, you may hand them to me or one of
6 our DHEC staff.

7 I call, first, Kristin Dillard. Please come
8 up to the mic, and we will take your comment and
9 start your three-minute timer.

10 MS. DILLARD: I'm sorry. I didn't --

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Ms. Dillard, would you still
12 like to make a comment?

13 MS. DILLARD: No. I did not check the box. I'm sorry.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. David Phelps?

15 MR. PHELPS: Yes.

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: David Phelps, if you would come
17 up. State your name, first and last.

18 MR. PHELPS: Dave Phelps. Should I start?

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

20 MR. PHELPS: Yes. As a retired professional engineer,
21 I'm very supportive of bringing back manufacturing
22 to the U.S., especially from China. And, again, as
23 an engineer, I'm well aware that many processes are
24 potentially hazardous and have to be correctly
25 designed, built, and maintained to the appropriate

1 standards. I worked for a global industrial gases
2 company for 27 years, and products included fluids
3 which were cryogenic, flammable, explosive, toxic,
4 and asphyxiant. However, all the many process
5 plants involved were built on dedicated industrial
6 sites.

7 My main concern with the proposed Silfab site
8 is its location in a residential area including
9 schools. And assuming that Silfab can show that
10 its emissions will meet DHEC requirements and that
11 stored toxic, flammable, explosive liquids can
12 never be accidentally released to the surroundings
13 -- tough to guarantee -- is it realistic to assume
14 that the technology and manufacturing processes
15 will not change over the next 30 years? Two things
16 could happen: In technology -- in a fast-moving,
17 highly competitive industry, solar panel technology
18 will change. Right now, competitor First Solar
19 produces cadmium telluride thin film panels
20 promoted as being superior to the traditional
21 crystalline silicon panels produced by Silfab, and
22 cadmium telluride is extremely toxic. There are
23 many other known technologies which are also toxic,
24 including the different processing cleaning
25 chemicals. Now, I understand that Silfab will not

1 want to change their production methodology but are
2 likely to be forced to, to remain competitive.

3 My second concern is with manufacturing.
4 Silfab could increase their profitability by moving
5 further up the -- the cell manufacturing process.
6 For example, they could buy in silicon billets and
7 cut the wafers in Fort Mill. This would involve
8 treating silicon dust and other chemicals. Could
9 they go even further up the -- the production cycle
10 -- up this production chain? Is the forecast power
11 -- I've heard 30 megawatts -- in anticipation of
12 this?

13 So once Silfab were installed in Fort Mill, it
14 would be very difficult to stop or control these
15 changes in technology and/or manufacturing. It's
16 been problematic to get clear answers defining
17 Silfab's proposed operations to date, and I
18 wouldn't presume to attribute blame for this since
19 there are a number of parties involved. However,
20 it suggests that we could face some obfuscation
21 regarding future changes.

22 So, in summary, I believe that the proposed
23 site is unsuitable for Silfab's current and
24 possible future operations from a community safety
25 standpoint. Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Mr. Phelps, would
2 -- would you like to leave a copy of your comments
3 with us? Is -- is that okay if we keep a --

4 MR. PHELPS: Certainly.

5 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. We'll now call on
6 Larry Byrd.

7 MR. BYRD: Good evening. Larry Byrd. I live in Rock --
8 I live in Fort Mill. The main thing I'm talking
9 about right now is establishing trust between the
10 community and Silfab, and my main concern is the
11 safety of the children and the residents.
12 Monitoring plans need to be more specific and
13 better planned. Emergency plans, we don't know
14 what they are. People don't know. "What am I
15 going to do? What's going to happen?" I'd like to
16 know that. We'd like to know.

17 Again, I'm very concerned about the trust
18 between us, the company, and the community. The
19 boss came up here a while ago with comments. We'd
20 like to hear some of his comments, but the main
21 thing, we want to know what they're going to do
22 during emergency. What are they going to do with
23 the children? What are they going to do with the
24 community?

25 Again, it's location, location, location, and

1 I'm concerned about that. Why don't we move Silfab
2 to a rural location further out in York County?
3 And I'll -- like I say, it's the kids that matter.
4 It's the kids. Here's the old grandpa right here
5 talking about the kids. Listen, we need to protect
6 our kids. They need educated. They need to go to
7 school. They have enough problems right now not
8 worrying about environment. They need to worry
9 about the standards or how -- what they're going to
10 learn, and they need to protect our children and
11 our community and go forward as -- with trust with
12 industry. Thank you very much.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Rachele Julian?

14 MS. JULIAN: Hi. It's "RAY-chul." Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: I'm sorry. And if you --

16 MS. JULIAN: I'm a Fort Mill --

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- if you could state your full
18 name.

19 MS. JULIAN: Rachele Julian, Fort Mill resident and
20 concerned parent. So the public notice states that
21 the permit has been written to ensure that this
22 facility operates as a conditional major source.
23 What is a "conditional major source"? Because
24 Silfab has requested to be a synthetic minor
25 source. On the public notice, why are two 7,925-

1 gallon tanks that contain HF hyronic (verbatim)
2 acid not listed, and why is there no SDS sheet for
3 hydrofluoric acid? Is Silfab trying to hide the
4 fact that they are using this highly toxic
5 chemical? Why does DHEC use 24-hour notice time
6 for maximum concentration allowable limits when a
7 single peak of HF can be deadly? Shouldn't we use
8 eight-hour average time since that's the closest
9 amount to exposure to school children? Better yet,
10 why don't we use one-hour average time because
11 short exposure to small amounts of HF is so
12 dangerous. The last sentence in the paragraph of
13 3.3 states that "the need for this tank will be
14 dependent on the market availability and cost." If
15 they need it, it shouldn't be a function of
16 availability and cost. Will DHEC determine and
17 regulate the need?

18 Point 3.2, Solar Cell Manufacturing, it states
19 in the middle paragraph that, "Most of these
20 processes are performed inside enclosed machines or
21 clean rooms that are vented to a wet acid
22 scrubber." Should this say "all processes"?

23 Then point 5.1.1.2 states, "This subpart does
24 not apply to the HCl, HF or silane storage tanks
25 since they are considered volatile organic liquid

1 storage vessels." Shouldn't they say "are not
2 considered volatile organic liquid"? Are they
3 volatile organic liquids or not?

4 Point 5.21, SC Regulation 61-62.1, they do not
5 state that they are under 10 tons a year for a
6 single HAP/TAP, hazardous air pollutant or toxic
7 air pollutant. In actuality, there are possibly
8 over 10 tons a year. That's all I have right now.
9 Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. And, again, be sure
11 -- if you have any written comments, to ensure that
12 we can capture everything, if you want to give us a
13 copy, we would love to take it.

14 Next, we have Elaine Sweeney. Please state
15 your full name.

16 MS. SWEENEY: I'm Elaine Sweeney. I guess I'd better
17 pick this up. Okay. I'm Elaine Sweeney, and I
18 live in the area. I've gotten to know this area
19 over the last 15 years, and I'm very, very
20 concerned about all of our families, about our
21 future, about our property values, about our
22 health. Since this is a construction air permit
23 that's being considered, will you make Silfab
24 strictly adhere to the International Building Code
25 that's specifically the Risk Category? Who will

1 enforce that? Can the building built for
2 distribution be upfitted to a Risk Category IV from
3 a Risk Category II? That building was built, what,
4 four/five/six years ago -- 2016, I think -- and it
5 was built for -- to be a warehouse and distribution
6 center only. It's an enormous building. How can
7 we make sure that it can safely house dangerous
8 chemicals? The thing is, if you don't have the
9 blue -- do you have the blueprints for this
10 building? Can you absolutely ascertain what is
11 beneath the foundation? Is the foundation of this
12 building conditioned to handle a -- a Category IV
13 or a Category III hazard? This is the main concern
14 that I have because there's too much riding, too
15 much at stake for us to make foolish mistakes or to
16 move forward too quickly.

17 I'm asking the board to refuse the permit at
18 this time until all of these questions can be
19 answered in detail. Thank you so much.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Ms. Denise, I have
21 you next.

22 MS. BOCK: Denise Bock. On point 6.8, Conclusion, it
23 states, "The facility has demonstrated that it will
24 operate in compliance with these standards." Why
25 is the engineer making this statement? Isn't this

1 DHEC's job to make this determination? There's no
2 PE stamp on the main modeling report. Doesn't that
3 invalidate the report if it has not been stamped by
4 a professional engineer? In light of all the
5 incorrect information in this report, shouldn't a
6 new report be prepared and stamped by a South
7 Carolina professional engineer? My husband is a
8 professional engineer, so -- understand this.

9 Okay. And I have lived within one to two
10 miles of this plant going on 40 years. I've lived
11 through Hurricane Hugo where we had lots of damage
12 and no power or water for about a week. I've also
13 felt earthquakes while living here. This area is
14 prone to earthquakes. Will you strictly enforce
15 all relevant regulations on the buildings and
16 equipment, that is the scrubbers, chemical tanks,
17 and stacks that will protect the public during an
18 earthquake, tornado, hurricane, or other natural
19 event? Who sees and approves the P&ID drawing for
20 the tank that's -- that silane -- silane is stored
21 in, plus the tanks for the other chemicals, and who
22 will oversee all this work? Will DHEC regulate the
23 23,000 gallons of silane on site being that it is
24 extremely explosive? And will DHEC create a one-
25 mile buffer needed to keep everyone out of the

1 evacuation radius to protect the public from this
2 explosive chemical?

3 From an air quality standpoint, how is it
4 acceptable to have 2,000 children just 1300 feet
5 away from this manufacturing plant? From an air
6 quality standpoint, what is the acceptable buffer
7 requirements when there is an adjacent school and
8 residences nearby? If this is approved with the
9 knowledge of the danger of these air pollutants,
10 who is -- who is liable if there is an explosion,
11 leak, or other accident where children or the
12 community are injured or killed? At the site where
13 the Celanese plant was located in Rock Hill, we
14 understand that people who live in the apartments
15 that were built over the former site apparently
16 have to sign a waiver that they will not sue if
17 they get sick living there. Should the parents of
18 school children sign a similar waiver to put their
19 children in these schools next to a manufacturing
20 plant with known emissions and dangerous air
21 pollutants? MSDS, the Material Safety Data Sheets,
22 are no longer used to report on chemicals, so they
23 are, therefore, invalid. Are you going to require
24 Silfab to provide SDS, the Safety Data Sheets, for
25 all of the chemicals they are using? Silfab is

1 manufacturing with very dangerous chemicals, and
2 they are already close to the maximum amount of
3 dangerous air pollutants that are allowed to be
4 released into that -- into the atmosphere. Will
5 you require any alarms to alert both them and the
6 community when they exceed those amounts to protect
7 the community and the schools? Your DHEC logo
8 states, "Healthy People . . . Healthy Communities."
9 How is releasing toxic air pollutants 1300 feet
10 from two schools protecting these students? If
11 there is an explosion, there's no possible way to
12 evacuate all these children before there is harm.
13 How are these children protected when an unexpected
14 accident or natural disaster occurs? Can you point
15 out which receptor on Figure 5 of the report had
16 the maximum concentration, please? And in Standard
17 No. 8.B, "New Sources," it mentions location. Does
18 DHEC take into consideration location, that is
19 schools, residences, and commercial establishments?
20 Does the EPA have any guidelines, regulatory or
21 voluntary, that pertain to schools sitting
22 (verbatim)? Will you follow these guidelines even
23 if they are voluntary?

24 (To Hearing Officer Taylor) Am I up?

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: You -- you are. And we

1 certainly would like to take your written comments
2 to make sure we have we have that.

3 MS. BOCK: I'll e-mail you the whole batch.

4 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes. Perfect. Thank you.

5 Do we have Martha Kern?

6 MS. KERN: Right here. I think I rusted shut. Okay.

7 It's been a long meeting so far.

8 Good evening. My name is Martha Kern,
9 K-e-r-n, and I'm a licensed professional geologist.
10 I have over 25 years experience working in farmland
11 protection for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
12 extensive experience with underground/aboveground
13 storage tanks, leaks, spills, chemicals, all over
14 the place, so I'm familiar with all that stuff,
15 except one.

16 But anyway, I just want to note for DHEC, I
17 hope that the comments and things said tonight and
18 by e-mail will support the Department with facts,
19 expertise, experience in assisting DHEC in its
20 evaluation of the permit submitted. I hope that
21 this is all going to be helpful for you.

22 My review of the draft air quality
23 construction permit reveals a number of
24 inconsistencies, discrepancies, and numbers that
25 just don't add up. They seem like they're all over

1 the place. These are the result of ignorance,
2 incompetence, and/or intentions and need to be
3 redone.

4 I have a quick answer to the question about
5 the hydrofluoric acid tanks and why it would be a
6 likely -- a reason why it would be market
7 conditions is because the hydrofluoric acid has to
8 be stored in at least a lined tank with pure copper
9 or Teflon to be able to hold that, and that is
10 very, very expensive, so I'm guessing that that
11 might be related. That wasn't part of my comments,
12 but I was just responding to that.

13 I'm a conservative in that I am pro-business
14 and sustainable development as well as pro-
15 construction -- conservation -- excuse me -- of
16 land, water, and precious resources for the benefit
17 of our residents now and in the future. Sorry.

18 Of a number of hazardous chemicals, my
19 greatest concern would be a very large tank of
20 silane gas; it is poisonous and is easily ignited
21 in air. It is often water reactive and will ignite
22 when in contact with water or humid air. This is
23 South Carolina. If exposed to too much heat, the
24 container may rupture violently and rocket. Thank
25 you.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Brian Chew?

2 MS. KERN: I'll submit comments in writing -- thank you
3 -- tomorrow morning.

4 MR. CHEW: My name is Brian Chew. I'm President of
5 Enviro-Equipment. We manufacture systems similar
6 to the scrubber that Silfab Solar is using.

7 The five-year stack testing is too infrequent.
8 The emission data relies on 96 percent efficiency
9 from the scrubber. This efficiency may decline
10 over time. The Silfab facility manager in the QA
11 section stated that the manufacturing equipment is
12 interlocked to the scrubber. There should be a
13 stack transmitter that, if the discharge limit
14 exceeds, shuts down all equipment, contacts DHEC
15 and emergency personnel immediately. Daily e-
16 mailed reports from the transmitter should go to
17 DHEC as well; yearly third-party calibration of the
18 transmitter, quarterly stack -- quarterly stack
19 testing to confirm the transmitter data. However,
20 no amount of interlocks and safeties make any
21 system foolproof. This should not be installed
22 near a school. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you for your comment. I
24 now call Joe Fazzari. And I do apologize if I --

25 MR. FAZZARI: That's fine.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- mess up that name. Please
2 make sure you speak your name when you get to the
3 microphone.

4 MR. FAZZARI: It's Joe Fazzari. I'm going to read
5 directly from the construction permit. The section
6 under B.1 reads, "This facility is a potential
7 major source for hazardous air pollutants and
8 emissions." That's a very declarative statement.
9 And when it talks about, in the application,
10 Section D.2, "In the event of an emergency, as
11 defined" by South Carolina regulations, "the owner
12 or operator may document an emergency situation
13 through properly signed contemporaneously
14 (verbatim) logs" -- I emphasize the word "may" --
15 "operating logs, and other relevant evidence" that
16 verifies "an emergency occurred; the permitted
17 source was at the time that the emergency occurred
18 being properly operated equipment; during the
19 period of the emergency"; and, "The owner or
20 operator may give a verbal notification of the
21 emergency." Then on the bottom, it says, "This
22 provision is in addition to any emergency or upset
23 provision contained in any of the application
24 requirements."

25 My question is a few things. One is: Why the

1 word "may" in there, which seems as an option that
2 they can declare an emergency, which doesn't make
3 any sense? How does this relate to the emergency
4 plan that they are required to submit? And then
5 who gets to see the emergency plan? Will it be
6 made public? And the other thing about the
7 equipment that was -- been mentioned earlier is: I
8 don't see any reference to any alarms that would go
9 off. If there is an emergency identified at that
10 time, why wait till we -- before -- we have to
11 start documenting it before alerting, particularly
12 the kids in -- in the playground in the area, that
13 there is an emergency? Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Nancy Hall?

15 MS. HALL: My name is Nancy Hall. I don't -- I don't
16 have technical information to ask about. My
17 concern is for the children. I learned recently
18 that for environmental factors, that young children
19 and babies are affected roughly a hundred times
20 what adults are. And my comment is to the people
21 who are going to be making this decision, and what
22 I say is: Every man and woman -- every man and
23 woman of integrity will always, always protect the
24 children, and if they are not, they need to be
25 removed. I'll say it again so you hear me. Every

1 man and woman of integrity who has anything to do
2 with voting this in or out -- every man and woman
3 of integrity must always protect the children.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Kerri Bishop?

6 MS. BISHOP: Kerri Bishop. I actually live in Rock
7 Hill. So I want to start by saying it's clear that
8 our county, state, and federal departments have no
9 authority when something does go wrong, and we know
10 that because of the paper mill.

11 I am on the construction permit application
12 submitted by Silfab, and their controlled
13 substances might be under 10 tons per year, but
14 uncontrolled for the modular section that they
15 don't have at any other facility is 195 tons per
16 year of the HCI, so that -- what's that? -- the
17 HCL, hydrochloric acid, and 9.33 of the hydrogen
18 fluoride, so those are uncontrolled. Modular also
19 does the VOC, and it's 100 tons per year of
20 uncontrolled for that. So those aren't going
21 through scrubbers three minutes away from two
22 schools that might go in, and we think that that's
23 okay? DHEC thinks that that's a good look? Our
24 county thinks that that's a good look?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not everybody.

1 MS. BISHOP: Maybe not the ones that are here. Let's
2 talk about the ones that aren't here.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly.

4 MS. BISHOP: So I just don't think it's a good idea when
5 our state and federal departments and county don't
6 have any authority or any power or any want to stop
7 them and protect us because that's what it seems to
8 me. We've been being poisoned for over two years
9 now. We don't even have proper monitoring for all
10 that, so what's going to happen? And we want to
11 pretend like they don't know their risk? If they
12 have four other facilities, they know their risk.
13 They might not know the risk with the modular, but
14 I bet you they outsource it, so they can come up
15 with it pretty quickly. I guess that's it.

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Wally and Esther --
17 is it "bac-a-NEER"?

18 MR. BUCHANAN: Oh, wow.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: "Bew-CAN-uhn."

20 MR. BUCHANAN: We had a president named Buchanan.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: I do -- I do apologize.

22 MR. BUCHANAN: You failed U.S. History.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: I -- I couldn't make out some
24 of it. I do apologize.

25 MR. BUCHANAN: That's all right. It's been worse.

1 (To Ms. Buchanan) You going to hold it? All
2 right.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yeah. Let's let Ms. Esther
4 hold it.

5 MR. BUCHANAN: I'm Wally Buchanan; this is my wife,
6 Esther. I'm retired military. And my wife, the
7 good Lord put us together, and no man's going to
8 split us apart; we're a team.

9 I would like to -- I'm just going to hit
10 bullet points; we'll talk later. Silfab is 198
11 feet from our property. Actually, we're 1 inch to
12 1 inch from our property, 271 feet from our
13 sunroom. They're 279 feet to my brother-in-law's
14 house, which is zoned residential, and that's all
15 the facts I have on location.

16 Our wind is from the south, we live north of
17 Silfab. You'll get that in your climate. One way
18 in, one way out. Our fire chief wrote a letter
19 when they were building this place saying that was
20 a bad idea. I talked with the county, the county
21 says they cannot control that road. They run the
22 stop sign. They wave when they run the stop sign.
23 The county vehicle today at 11:36 waved as he ran
24 the stop sign. The Fort Mill Fire Department, two
25 weeks ago, they waved when they run the stop sign.

1 And you're going to put a chemical plant where
2 nobody can control the traffic. A young man in his
3 vehicle got airborne at the stop signs, went in the
4 air about 80 foot, and caught a culvert pipe. The
5 county knows all about it. The county says they
6 cannot control that road, we're on our own. So
7 you're going to put a chemical plant there.

8 We have five generations living in our
9 property next to Silfab -- four generations. It
10 used to be six but people die. My grandson wants
11 to build a house out there, not until we get this
12 settled. I'm not going to kill my kids. We're not
13 a rural area, we are residential. It is zoned
14 residential right behind it.

15 People from Fort Mill, they're against it. If
16 anybody's for it, you live on the other side of the
17 river. I don't care what they put in your
18 backyard, right? Well, I care what they put in
19 mine. I looked up on Google, "What's the safe
20 distance from solar panels?" I have no control
21 over Google. They said, "1.3 miles is a safe
22 distance." I live less than 300 foot. You're
23 going to kill me. You're going to kill my kids.
24 You're going to use our family for guinea pigs.
25 Will Silfab write a million-dollar life insurance

1 policy for everybody on the road behind them for
2 the first piece of cancer we get?

3 Oh, by the way, DHEC, you already know this:
4 That property has 58 wells dug on it to remove the
5 gasoline -- that you've brought the MSDS sheet on,
6 it's polluted with gasoline. There's 58 wells on
7 that property, and you built a plant on there, and
8 then you're going to put chemicals.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

10 MR. BUCHANAN: Y'all have a good day.

11 MS. BUCHANAN: My -- my turn. I was not going to say
12 anything. My name is Esther Buchanan. But with
13 everything I've learned in the last few months --
14 you know, before -- I would just simply ask DHEC
15 not to pass this permit, to move this company
16 somewhere else so that the people in our area could
17 be safe and our children could be safe. I grew up
18 here. He grew up here. We have so many people
19 that have moved here for their retirement. They've
20 worked hard. We all worked hard. We love Fort
21 Mill. We do not want to give up our residence. We
22 do not want chemicals in our residence, in our air
23 that we have to breathe. And we do not have -- we
24 do not want to worry about our children dying, ours
25 or somebody else's that might be in the school.

1 And that's all I got to say.

2 MR. BUCHANAN: I have one P.S.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

4 MR. BUCHANAN: In the military, I was a NBC NCO. I will
5 only say -- wink, wink -- some of these chemicals
6 are the same chemicals that are in the biological
7 nuclear warfare package. I can't tell you which
8 one. I have a secret clearance. But the ones in
9 the Army, you know what chemicals they are.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. We now have Morris
11 Rothstein.

12 MR. ROTHSTEIN: Good evening. Tremendous turnout
13 against Silfab. Why is that? Because everyone
14 here is concerned about their health and these
15 children's health. The same thing should happen
16 for DHEC. DHEC can do their analysis, do their
17 pollings and so forth, but they should also be
18 concerned about residents' health as it pertains to
19 Silfab.

20 Silfab states in their promotional material
21 that they will try to minimize accidents, but they
22 do not guarantee an accident from happening. And
23 as we all know, accidents do happen. Just think
24 about an accident happening when a trailer -- a
25 tanker is transporting their chemicals from the

1 airport that's going to be riding on I-77 or 21.
2 How many accidents happen on 77 and 21? Every
3 minute, there's another accident. Just imagine the
4 catastrophe, the explosion that will happen and
5 that will affect the air that you're concerned
6 about, but you can't count that because it hasn't
7 happened yet.

8 DHEC has to think about the options beyond the
9 natural here of what can happen in the future to
10 the air quality. Once the air is dirty, you can't
11 scrub the air. Once there's an incident, you can't
12 call it back. That's why we believe that Silfab
13 shouldn't be here, that the location is incorrect.
14 Go to an industrial park away from residential
15 areas where people breathe in -- breathe the air,
16 love to see the environment. They want to smell
17 the roses. They want to smell the autumn air. But
18 can you guarantee us -- guarantee us that we'll be
19 able to smell the roses and the air once Silfab has
20 been here and there's an accident that happened? I
21 say -- we all say, no, you can't. Thank you very
22 much for your time.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Danielle Graham?

24 MS. GRAHAM: Hello. Danielle Graham. This is my home,
25 this is where I've raised my family. As I talk,

1 please take a look at the drone footage pictures of
2 the proposed Silfab Solar manufacturing building.
3 These pictures are very clear -- very clearly prove
4 that the two new schools will be directly beside
5 that 785,000 square foot building sitting only 1300
6 feet away. These pictures show without a shadow of
7 a doubt the very close proximity of the Silfab
8 proposed location to the two new schools that will
9 be built. As you can see, the Fort Mill School
10 District has already begun preparing the ground for
11 these schools for these babies to attend -- 2,000
12 children. These children will hold -- these
13 schools will hold up to 2,000 children
14 collectively. Let me say that again. 2,000
15 children will be only 1300 feet away. This should
16 make you gasp.

17 We are an urban community of houses,
18 townhomes, apartments, trailer parks, retirement
19 communities, nursing homes, schools, day cares,
20 churches, restaurants, parks, hospitals, doctors'
21 offices, dental offices, hotels, large businesses,
22 small businesses, and much more. We are densely
23 populated and growing at a 26.2 percent growth
24 rate, which is the third highest in South Carolina
25 according to the 2020 census. We are not a rural

1 -- we are not rural, as Silfab would have you
2 believe. Their paperwork said that. According to
3 the United States census, 31.1 percent of our
4 population is under 18 years of age right here.
5 Their brains are still developing. There are many
6 studies and reports showing the negative effects of
7 air pollutants on school-age children. In fact,
8 there is actual data showing a drop in the GPA as a
9 result. National Library of Medicine study shows
10 hazardous air pollutants impact children's academic
11 performance. Hazardous air pollutants were linked
12 to a 0.4 -- 0.1 to 0.4 decrease in GPA. We should
13 never play Russian roulette with the health of our
14 children. That's what this is. We're just going
15 to see how it goes? They're the experiment?

16 Silfab does not belong in the densely
17 populated area and congested urban community of
18 Fort Mill. Places that fall within the one-mile
19 evacuation zone are neighborhoods -- mine --
20 houses, townhomes, apartments, low-income housing
21 -- hey, you cut that one; check that box -- trailer
22 parks, retirement communities, churches, Walnut
23 Grove Christian School, Oakcrest Preparatory
24 Academy, Carolina Kids Development Center, Fort
25 Mill Cooperative Preschool, Smart Kids of Fort

1 Mill, Beansprout Academy, two schools that will
2 hold 2,000 children -- we know this now, right? --
3 doctors' offices, grocery stores, gas stations,
4 restaurants, various businesses, Interstate 77,
5 Highway 21, Highway 460, and much more. I only
6 have three minutes. In addition to those schools
7 that will hold 2,000 children, there are 12 schools
8 within two miles. There are ten day care centers
9 and five more schools within four miles.

10 My point: Silfab Solar will be using highly
11 toxic and explosive chemicals per the EPA's own
12 guidelines, and it's not safe in a densely
13 populated area. And we know now DHEC is not
14 experts in qualifying them to be in our area. I'm
15 pretty scared. Silfab can't guarantee the
16 chemicals won't pollute the air. As a mother, the
17 safety of children is my number one concern. It is
18 simply common sense to not place this level of
19 danger so close to our most precious and vulnerable
20 members of society: our children and our elderly.
21 Please deny the request to permit Silfab's air
22 filtration system. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you, Ms. Graham. Andy

24 Light (verbatim)?

25 MR. LYTTLE: Andy Lytle. We have noted the following

1 discrepancies in the documents provided by Silfab:
2 The maximum concentration of hydrofluoric was
3 reduced from 1.806 in the report to 1.74 on the
4 summary sheet. This is a reduction in 3 percentage
5 point of the ratio of the allowable 2.05 for no
6 apparent reason. The VOC amount was reduced from
7 100.3 in the report to 99.9 in Appendix C for no
8 apparent reason. The chart for controlled
9 emissions on Page 10 has incorrect totals as if the
10 VOCs are cleaned by the scrubbers. They are not
11 and are released in full. Even if we use the
12 higher numbers, these numbers were calculated using
13 the following questionable data: rural versus
14 urban; terrain data that has since changed; 2015 to
15 2019 weather data versus current weather data;
16 upper air data from two hours away. In addition to
17 all that, we have numbers and calculations that are
18 not sealed by a professional engineer, not to
19 mention whoever wrote the report gave his opinion
20 in the conclusion, which shows bias and gives the
21 appearance that the numbers were adjusted towards
22 that bias.

23 The following items put further distance
24 between the public confidences of the whole
25 process: The tanks for the HF, the most dangerous

1 of the pollutants, are not listed on the DHEC
2 public notice under proposed equipment. This gives
3 the perception that DHEC wants to avoid questions
4 about the most toxic chemical, and Silfab will have
5 almost 16,000 gallons of it on site. Silfab does
6 not provide SDS for HF in the report -- again, the
7 most dangerous pollutant -- making it appear even
8 more like an effort to avoid the subject. Figure 5
9 in the report is conveniently not referred to in --
10 anywhere in the report, appearing to divert all
11 attention away from the term "1500 Meter Property
12 Buffer."

13 All of the typos in the report indicate that
14 there was no care taken to even proofread the
15 report and thus no care taken in the consideration
16 of the two adjacent schools. In my opinion, this
17 report is incomplete, inaccurate, and is only an
18 opinion since it doesn't have a PE stamp on the
19 modeling report. This should be a complete do-
20 over. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Jan Rose?

22 MS. ROSE: Let me see if I can fix this.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

24 MS. ROSE: Takes an old grandmother. My name is Jan

25 Rose, and I live in Fort Mill. And I moved to Fort

1 Mill because it was a beautiful, quiet, sweet
2 community. Well, that's changed. Let's talk about
3 Highway 21, which is the only access in and out of
4 where Silfab is going to be located. I don't know
5 who did the traffic study or if they did it in the
6 middle of the night, but 21 is a disaster all day
7 long, all -- all the time, and so the last thing we
8 need is more big trucks going in and out of any
9 place on Highway 21. And they'll get to Highway 21
10 from 77, and every day you hear of horrible
11 accidents on Highway 77 and with trucks -- with
12 tankers by them -- behind them, across the whole
13 highway -- the whole highway gets shut down and
14 HAZMAT has to come out. Do we want more of that?
15 I don't think so.

16 I know that DHEC has nothing to do with the
17 water consumption, but one-and-a-quarter-million
18 gallons every day seems a little bit much to be
19 taking away from our water supply.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In a drought.

21 MS. ROSE: And -- and -- yeah. Drought, I'm from
22 California; you don't know what a drought is.

23 MR. BUCHANAN: That's why you're here.

24 MS. ROSE: What's going to happen to our water pressure?
25 Are we going to have enough water for our homes?

1 What happens as the resource dries up as we do
2 experience less and less rainfall each year because
3 of global climate change? And where does the water
4 go when they're finished with it, and what's in the
5 water when they're finished with it? Is it going
6 to go right back into the Catawba River with all
7 the contaminants that are contained in the water
8 after that goes through their process?

9 Everybody's mentioned the schools. I have to
10 mention the schools. I raised five kids in Silicon
11 Valley, where we also dealt with places that used
12 highly toxic chemicals. And there -- there are
13 parts in South San Jose where you can't build
14 anything anymore because of the toxic chemicals
15 that leached into the ground from the tanks with
16 the highly toxic chemicals in them.

17 Accidents happen, mechanical parts fail, and
18 the scrubbers are mechanical. Those parts wear out
19 just from use. This just does not make sense to
20 have a facility like this where we live and where
21 our children are trying to get an education. This
22 used to be the jewel of York County and of South
23 Carolina. But with -- with Silfab here, it's going
24 to turn into a lump of coal.

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Emily Doehling or

1

--

2

MS. DOEHLING: That's right. You're fine. Okay.

3

Again, I'm Emily Doehling, and I'm a Fort Mill

4

resident. I just wanted to express my concerns

5

regarding the location for the proposed Silfab

6

Solar manufacturing facility, as well as the

7

potential harms that might be borne by this

8

community. I'm sure many here support my concern

9

that the families of Fort Mill have, especially

10

those of us who live in a very close proximity to

11

this location. As a mother, I'm very concerned

12

about the air quality and the chemicals that will

13

be used at this plant. I've also worked in

14

logistics and supply chain during my career and

15

have dealt with hazardous and dangerous goods in

16

various capacities related primarily to the stowage

17

and transportation of these goods. I've looked at

18

the MSDS for many of the chemicals that would be

19

used at this plant, and they do seem to pose a

20

threat to our community. Between being flammable

21

gases, respiratory irritants, things that cause

22

respiratory system damage, it just seems like this

23

is not something that should be located in such a

24

high density residential area.

25

While I understand that this company is

1 claiming that they're going to use all of these
2 chemicals responsibly and without any risk to the
3 community, the fact remains there will always be a
4 risk, and our community should not have to bear
5 these risks.

6 Besides the short-term and long-term exposure
7 risks faced by residents, there's also the risk of
8 leaks or spills or accidents. I'm reminded of the
9 train derailment at East Palestine, Ohio, as a
10 recent example. Hazardous chemicals were released
11 as a result of an accident which poisoned the air
12 for the residents for months. These accidents
13 happen more frequently than people realize with
14 spills occurring both in the transportation of the
15 hazardous goods and at the plants themselves.

16 I encourage you to carefully consider the
17 health and safety of our community and the families
18 and children who reside near this proposed plant
19 and make the decision to keep this facility from
20 coming to our neighborhood. It isn't worth the
21 risk.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Shirley Lustig?
23 Shirley Lustig.

24 MS. LUSTIG: Shirley Lustig. I really didn't have a
25 planned speech. Just listening to everybody here,

1 I hope the powers that be listen to the people that
2 live here and -- and bringing up children here, and
3 just retiring here. I moved here from Brooklyn, if
4 you can't tell by my accent. I came here because
5 it's a nice place to be, it's quiet. It's -- it's
6 -- it was healthy. Now it's not going to be
7 healthy.

8 Canada has a lot of unclaimed land, rural land
9 that hasn't been disturbed. Why are they coming
10 here when they can go to their own backyard?
11 Because they don't want to bring garbage into their
12 house, they want to bring it to our house.

13 You have to really listen to what the people
14 are saying. This is not just, you know, we don't
15 want it, it's not a pretty thing to be. It's --
16 it's a dangerous thing, and it shouldn't be in a
17 residential area. Children, older people, young
18 people who want to start families here -- they're
19 building developments all over the place here.
20 Why? So they can die? Maybe you should build some
21 -- leave some land for some cemeteries because
22 that's what you're going to put us in. And you
23 really have to think about it. I don't know
24 whether you live in this area or you travel to this
25 area and you're outside that area where the toxins

1 won't get you right away. You'll be able to pack
2 up and -- and go someplace else. But that air has
3 -- is going to bother us right away. You have to
4 think about this. We're all people. This is a
5 community. The South is supposed to be a close
6 community. Well, show me, because you're not
7 showing me that now.

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Judith Kelly?

9 MS. KELLY: I don't -- it's all been said.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Peter MacVean?

11 MR. MACVEAN: Thank you. My name is Peter MacVean, and
12 that's M-a-c, capitol V as in Victor, e-a-n. I was
13 charged by a county councilman to investigate
14 Silfab. There were no preconceived notions. I
15 will provide you with the results of that
16 investigation. Most people have heard me speak
17 about it. I won't bore them again. However, in
18 the last week, I have endeavored to find out from
19 the local fire departments and Department of
20 Ecology in the state of Washington -- I was able to
21 speak to Bellingham Fire Department. They have
22 absolutely no record of Silfab, which would
23 indicate to me there's never been a reason for them
24 to be called.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because they assemble panels

1 there; this is manufacturing of panels, because I
2 called them also.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: We have to make sure that we're
4 respecting those who have the mic.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Excuse me.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: (To Mr. MacVean) Please
7 continue.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm so sorry.

9 MR. MACVEAN: I talked to the Department of Ecology,
10 both Bellingham and Burlington, which are the
11 cities in which Silfab is located in the Northwest
12 Division. They have no reason, no records of any
13 contact with Silfab. I do not believe that this is
14 an indication of danger.

15 The area is zoned light industrial, not
16 residential. We talk about traffic, that was a
17 building built as a logistics warehouse. Silfab
18 has said they will have their trucks come in at off
19 hours. And there will be 15 to 16 a day probably,
20 and that's an estimate, but they will be off hours.
21 Their employees will work off hours so they avoid
22 traffic.

23 I should also tell you I have no financial
24 connection to Silfab or any fund that has any money
25 invested in Silfab.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Last name Roy?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: First name is -- I can't really
4 make it out. It -- it looks like P-r-a-b --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Prabal. He left.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, he left.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Karen Seals?

8 MS. SEALS: It's all been said. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Kris Meachum? Kris
10 Meachum? David Price? Carolyn -- do I have two?
11 Deborah --

12 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Did you --

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: -- Shokes?

14 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Did you say Carolyn?

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes.

16 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Carolyn O'Connor?

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Carolyn O'Connor. I'm sorry.

18 The paper has a mark on it where some of the name
19 is scratched out.

20 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Hello. Carolyn O'Connor. I just
21 wanted to make a short comment about -- the man
22 from Silfab said that -- well, he was making a
23 comparison of gasoline to the chemicals on the list
24 that they carry there. And so I just thought,
25 "Well, let me look it up; never heard this before

1 but" -- so I -- I googled it: What -- what causes
2 gasoline to ignite? "Gasoline vapors are heavier
3 than air; they flow invisibly along the ground and
4 can ignite from a flame, spark, hot surface, or
5 static electricity, causing an explosion." You
6 could heat the gasoline up to a high enough
7 temperature that it could ignite spontaneously.

8 Now I'm going to compare that. It says with
9 saline -- silane, however you say it, which is:
10 "Highly explosive, may explode when exposed to air;
11 has a one-mile evacuation in all directions." And
12 then it goes on to say -- 1300 feet from two new
13 schools, that's close. That's -- that's silane.

14 Then the hydrofluoric acid, this is -- and
15 these -- I think all three are Category III. I
16 don't know about the first one. This is highly
17 toxic, deadly when you breathe it. I don't know
18 the details of toluene, only that it was also in
19 the same Category III.

20 But I just wanted to ask anybody: Have you
21 ever been around and breathed gasoline?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

24 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Are you dead? Are you --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

1 MS. C. O'CONNOR: Okay. Okay. So that was -- you know,
2 I didn't think it was the very best comparison, and
3 I'm not saying that gasoline can't be problematic.
4 And then -- but these are definitely seeming in a
5 different category altogether.

6 And then also the "evacuation" and the "highly
7 explosive when in contact with air." Well, I think
8 most of us have put gasoline in our lawn mowers or
9 -- even my children have, and I don't think
10 anything was that explosive, and really a
11 comparison with gasoline -- well, not so good.
12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Gaye O'Connor?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who?

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Gaye O'Connor.

16 MS. G. O'CONNOR: My name is Gaye O'Connor. I live in
17 Dogwood Hills, about a half a mile from here.
18 Pollution and hazardous materials are not new to
19 us, but the greed of this country is. People are
20 constantly inventing new and more dangerous hazards
21 to put in the middle of civilization. We can only
22 wonder why. After the -- what we've had is
23 asbestos problems, lead paint back in the day,
24 environmental dangerous factories near water
25 sources, air pollution, or dangerous fertilizers.

1 Fertilizers was way big way back in the day. We
2 sat back, and we let people do these things to us.
3 We became fat and happy and let those things
4 happen.

5 Then one day we decide we don't want to do
6 these things anymore, and now it's too late. They
7 -- they're just going to take over no matter what
8 you want, and no matter who's going to complain,
9 they're going to get their way. No matter how many
10 times we campaign, we are told that it is for the
11 greater good and wealthy people who have a whim.
12 I'm not an environmental expert, but right here and
13 in nearby Tega Cay, they've had problems -- big
14 problems. (To Hearing Officer Taylor) Are you not
15 hearing me? Do you not hear me? Oh, I'm sorry.

16 In Pennsylvania firms, they used 100 million
17 pounds of secret chemicals that nobody knew about;
18 a foul-smelling biofuel plant in Southwest Dallas,
19 and they've been complaining about it for years.
20 Batteries rage (verbatim) in Nevada, lithium mines
21 are dragging their feet over seeking protection of
22 endangered species. Pennsylvania communities are
23 concerned about fracking with -- with the toxic
24 waste violating zoning codes. 80 thousand -- 800
25 thousand acres in South Carolina have pollution and

1 ruined crops.

2 I would say that in any state that you want to
3 see, they have these environmental problems, and
4 there's not much we're going to do about it. There
5 is so much land that could be utilized where people
6 don't worry about the harm that's generated. Let's
7 find some place away from our Fort Mill communities
8 where they have plenty of room to do their best to
9 make this world less safe. Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Deborah Shokes?

11 Deborah Shokes?

12 MS. SHOKES: I'm a-coming.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Oh.

14 MS. SHOKES: I'm sorry I'm slow.

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Please -- please feel free to
16 stay where you are. I can bring it back to you.

17 MS. SHOKES: I was going to say, if you can outrun back
18 surgery, do it.

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Would you like to sit down?

20 MS. SHOKES: Yes.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Okay. You --

22 MS. SHOKES: If you don't mind, yes, please.

23 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Sure.

24 MS. SHOKES: Thank you. I'm pretty well retired now,
25 but I used to work in technical engineering of a

1 manufacturing company. And I'm familiar with --
2 I'm not with familiar with xylene, but I am
3 familiar with the -- the other items that are
4 listed, and I do know that toluene is a very nasty
5 animal. And its flashpoint is 39 degrees
6 Fahrenheit. That's -- that's a pretty low
7 flashpoint, and if there would be anything that
8 would spark it, we will have another explosion as
9 was in Rock Hill.

10 And -- thank you. My other concern about it
11 and my other question is: If such an event were to
12 occur, what is going to be the outside barrier or
13 demarcation line of such an explosion? How -- you
14 know, of a 700-and-something-thousand square foot
15 facility, it's not going to be small. The schools
16 would be obliterated, would they not? I also want
17 to know how many of the managers -- staff managers,
18 whatever levels, of this company will live within
19 the same distance as the schools. Are their
20 children going to attend those schools?

21 It's -- it just seems to be a very bad idea to
22 me. I think that we have more than enough rural
23 land in York County, any other county in South
24 Carolina -- how about North Dakota? You know --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or Alaska.

1 MS. SHOKES: Yeah. How about Canada? -- where they can
2 build this facility and not come down here and
3 jeopardize our people, our communities, our
4 children. And did they not know when they chose
5 this site that it was going to be in the middle of
6 a very highly grown-up area? The zoning could be 1
7 feet from the residential area, I don't know about
8 that. I haven't checked it out but -- yeah. It
9 still seems to be an unnecessary risk for the
10 people of Fort Mill in this area.

11 And -- and I don't know why the county would
12 even consider it. Why has the -- the county
13 already approved the property if the air and the
14 water has not already been approved? Is it not
15 already a foregone conclusion if they have already
16 approved the site for the facility? Is the
17 concrete sufficient enough for that kind of -- of
18 facility to be there? Do they -- gotten a change-
19 of-use permit to change the use if it was designed
20 for something entirely different? What about the
21 earthquake zone that we live in? What are they
22 going to do if we do have an earthquake? What's
23 that going to do to that facility and the people
24 that are living around it? I would say no. No.

25 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. That concludes the

1 persons that we had sign up to make a comment. We
2 would now ask if there is anyone who has not
3 already made a comment that would like to do so at
4 the time? And I also want to remind you if you
5 have not made a comment here tonight and you still
6 wish to do so, we do have written comments that we
7 will be accepting until November 3rd. So that is
8 still an option. And if you have written comments
9 that you read tonight and you would like to provide
10 them to us, that would be great as well.

11 So now I'll ask anyone who has not made a
12 comment yet, if they have a comment, please come up
13 to the mic. State your name, and then you can
14 comment.

15 MS. MOORE: My name is Lori Moore. I've just got a few
16 things left here to say. Silfab submitted their
17 application, an expedite review request form to
18 DHEC. Why are we expediting something that needs
19 to be looked at very carefully because of the
20 schools and residents adjacent to the plant? Why
21 would DHEC approve this expedite form?

22 Once things are in operation, how frequently
23 and by whom is inspection done to make sure they
24 are in compliance, and what are the credentials of
25 the person doing the inspection, and will there be

1 any inspections done by a third party? How will a
2 disbursal of hazardous air pollutants affect the
3 produce of local orchards in the area? And how
4 will the thousands of people that visit at
5 Carowinds theme park be affected?

6 The Synthetic Minor Construction Permit point
7 B.8, the last sentence on Page 7 states, "Each
8 scrubber shall be in place and operational when
9 processes controlled by it are running, except
10 during periods of scrubber malfunction or
11 mechanical failure." Shouldn't DHEC require them
12 to shut the processes down if the scrubbers aren't
13 working?

14 Now -- and I'm also going to say something I
15 wasn't really -- didn't think about saying, but I
16 didn't hear anybody really talk about the money.
17 In other meetings, I know there's been things that
18 -- talking about economical growth, how much we
19 need economical growth. But I have one thing to
20 say to that: People over profit. People are
21 profit. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Again, we want to
23 make sure -- yes?

24 MS. SALIGA: Marcia Saliga. I just have a question to
25 ask. All these wonderful issues and questions have

1 been raised. When will we get your answers? I
2 know I attended a previous meeting similar to this,
3 and all these great questions and issues -- a lot
4 of them were brought up. I have never seen any
5 answers from DHEC or Silfab to those issues and
6 questions. So that's my question. When will we
7 get the answers to all these questions? Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Is -- is there anyone who has
9 not commented? Please come up if you have not yet
10 made a comment.

11 MR. KASPER: Good evening, everyone. my name is Joe
12 Kasper. I just want to make a couple of quick
13 comments, and it's basically -- can everybody hear
14 me?

15 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: A little closer.

16 MR. KASPER: Basically, I just want to make a comment
17 based on my experience of living in York County
18 since 1978. It's been a great place to live, but I
19 have seen a lot of companies come and go and add
20 their impurities to the water, such as Catawba
21 River, Lake Wylie; the soil; the air. And I can be
22 very specific. I'm talking about Bowater, I'm
23 talking about Celanese, and many others, and they
24 just damage the -- they damage the community in
25 such a terrible way, and I never -- I never saw

1 anybody do anything about it. I lived in Catawba,
2 South Carolina, just up the road for two or three
3 years, and I was only about three-quarters of a
4 mile from Bowater. And I experienced directly the
5 impurities that were put in the air, that were put
6 in the water, and it wasn't a pretty picture.

7 So I hope that -- as the last lady that came
8 up here and said, I hope that we don't put money
9 about everything else and our health and especially
10 our children's health. And I just hope that, you
11 know, somebody's not putting money in somebody's
12 else's pocket in order to get this company in here.
13 It would be tragic, but it wouldn't surprise me.
14 It wouldn't surprise me at all. And so I'm glad to
15 see this fight this evening, and keep up the good
16 fight.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Okay. Well, I
18 think we -- I -- at -- at this time, we do have to
19 exit the facility at a strict time of nine o'clock,
20 so we will have to conclude. Have you had a chance
21 to speak? If not, please go ahead and come up.
22 We'll make sure we're able to take your comment.

23 MS. PISCIOTTA: I'll make this quick. My name is
24 Patricia Pisciotta. There have been rumors going
25 around that Silfab is already working in the

1 facility and has been since March.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

3 MS. PISHOTA: I'm sorry. Silfab -- there's a rumor that
4 they have already started working in the facility
5 since March. I'd like to get clear clarification
6 as to whether or not that is true. And I'd like to
7 know what powers that be -- the highest level
8 person that will provide us with a true answer to
9 that question. Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: So, again, on behalf of DHEC, I
11 would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight
12 and giving us your comments. As previously stated,
13 written comments may be submitted to DHEC by
14 Friday, November 3, 2023. All written comments
15 received on or before this time will be considered
16 in the decision-making process. Following the
17 public hearing and formal comment period, DHEC will
18 make a decision as to whether the draft air permit
19 should be approved, disapproved, or modified. This
20 decision will be based upon the review and
21 consideration of applicable state and federal air
22 quality regulations, comments made at this hearing
23 in the form of a transcript, all other written
24 comments received within the required time period,
25 and any other pertinent information. Once a final

1 permit decision is made, DHEC will provide a
2 response to all comments received pertaining the
3 air permit.

4 If you have any questions about the air
5 permitting process or about submitting written
6 comments, please see any DHEC staff before leaving.
7 DHEC's guide to a board review is as follows: will
8 be provided in our Response to Comments document,
9 as well as in our notification of a final permit
10 decision. These are the -- these are the
11 procedures that must be followed if a final
12 decision is made. You have the right to request a
13 final review of any permit decision DHEC makes.
14 The final review request must be submitted in
15 writing to DHEC Clerk of the Board, along with a
16 filing fee in the amount of \$100, within 15 days
17 after notice of DHEC decision for the permit has
18 been mailed.

19 In consideration of these requirements, if you
20 indicate on your sign-in sheet that you want to
21 receive any future information about Silfab
22 facility or if you have submitted comments during
23 the public comment period, you will receive
24 notification of DHEC's decision by U.S. mail or by
25 e-mail. If you wish to be notified of DHEC's

1 decision by certified mail, please see a DHEC staff
2 member at the sign-in table before you leave. If
3 you choose to make your certification request in
4 writing, you are asked to do so before -- you're
5 asked to do so by Friday, November 3, 2023.

6 On behalf of DHEC, I would like to, again,
7 thank you for your attendance.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that by close of business on
9 Friday?

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Yes. On the -- November 3rd.

11 The time now is 8:39 p.m., and this hearing is
12 officially adjourned. Thank you all.

13 (Whereupon, at 8:39 p.m., the public
14 hearing of the above-entitled matter
15 was concluded.)

16 (*This transcript may contain quoted material.
17 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted
18 by the speaker.)

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