

IN RE: PROPOSED QUARRY
MODIFICATION

WAKE STONE CORPORATION,
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
QUARRY, HORRY COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA

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TRANSCRIPT

OF

PUBLIC HEARING

Location: Public Safety Building, 3909 Walnut Street,
Loris, South Carolina

Reported by
Julie Taradash

APPEARANCES

SCDES Officials Present:

Catherine Sawyer, Hearing Officer
Colby Myers,
Project Manager, Mining and Reclamation Section

Speakers from the Public:

Leon D. Jackson
Dennis T. Worley
Kendrick Hemingway
Monica Whalen
Regina Hemingway
Hazel Jackson
Joseph Frinks
Elliott Botzis, Vulcan Materials Company
Vangalene Frinks
Forcanotta Parker
Veronica Thompson Frink
Latorya Green
Keith Hemingway
Robert Cox
Stacy Bell
Kelly Hemingway
Jerome Jackson
Tasha Green
Michele Squires
Sara Rich
James Hemingway
Linda Hemingway
Percilla Green
Tremelia Gore

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. SAWYER: All right. Good evening, everyone. The
3 time is now 7:05 p.m.; it's Thursday, August 27th,
4 2026, and this public hearing will now begin. This
5 hearing is being held by the South Carolina
6 Department of Environmental Services to receive
7 comments on the application submitted by the Wake
8 Stone Corporation to modify their permit to mine
9 limestone at a site located on Highway 9, Business
10 East, in Horry County, approximately 6.7 miles
11 southwest of Loris.

12 As a formal proceeding, the purpose of this
13 hearing is to record oral comments for the official
14 record. SCDES staff will not respond to questions
15 or comments during the hearing. My name is
16 Catherine Sawyer; I will be your hearing officer
17 tonight.

18 Thank you for being here in this important
19 step in our permitting process. Before we begin, I
20 have a few reminders. I would like for you to
21 silence cell phones and electronic devices, so we
22 don't disturb other folks. If you have not done so
23 already, please sign in at the table up front so
24 that we have your name and address on file, and we
25 can notify you of future updates.

1 Our permitting process requires applicants to
2 demonstrate that their proposed operations can meet
3 all state and federal environmental regulations.
4 Our role is to review applications, and if
5 appropriate, issue and enforce permits that protect
6 human health and the environment. Your role is to
7 provide comments for consideration. While
8 decisions are not based on a vote or the number of
9 similar comments, your input may influence whether
10 or not a permit is issued, or, if issued, the terms
11 and conditions written into it.

12 We will now outline tonight's process. Colby
13 Myers will read a brief statement about the
14 proposed quarry modification. After that, I will
15 call on those who've indicated on the sign-in sheet
16 that they would like to speak. If you choose not
17 to comment when called, you may decline. After all
18 listed speakers have commented, I will ask if
19 anyone else wishes to speak. Once all comments are
20 received, I will give closing remarks and adjourn
21 the hearing.

22 To ensure fairness and efficiency, please
23 follow these guidelines. First, your comments
24 should not go over three minutes per individual or
25 five minutes for an elected official or organized

1 group. Second, please be respectful towards anyone
2 speaking here tonight. Please don't clap; please
3 don't cheer and egg folks on. When you do that,
4 the court reporter cannot hear what you're saying
5 to record it. Third, please don't interrupt or ask
6 other participants to respond to your comments. If
7 you begin to move away from the comment and the
8 intent of this hearing, I may ask you to limit your
9 statement and be seated.

10 As a reminder, we will not answer questions
11 during this portion of the evening. When you --
12 all right. I will now call on Colby to read a
13 brief statement.

14 MR. MYERS: On May 1st, 2026, Wake Stone Corporation
15 submitted an application to modify the North Myrtle
16 Beach quarry in Horry County. The modification
17 request is to increase the permitted acreage from
18 1,306 acres to 1,309.6 acres and expand the
19 affected area. The reclamation plan will require
20 the operator to reclaim the site as grasslands and
21 a lake.

22 MS. SAWYER: All right. I'm now going to call on folks
23 who said they would like to speak. If you're
24 unable to complete your comment within the three-
25 minute allotted time, you may submit them in

1 writing through the end of the comment period,
2 which is September 11th, 2026. When I call your
3 name, please come down front, face our court
4 reporter, and clearly state and spell your name.
5 And the first person up to speak is Leon Jackson.
6 Would you still like to make a comment?

7 MR. LEON JACKSON: Yes, ma'am. I'm glad to.

8 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

9 MR. LEON JACKSON: My name is Leon Dell Jackson, address
10 353 Cedar Branch Road, Loris, South Carolina.
11 They've been blasting in our community. They done
12 messed up the habitat, and they also got my house
13 leaning, got holes out there -- same holes in our
14 yard where the trees be scraped, they lean, ours.
15 Ground is not safe. Thank you.

16 MS. SAWYER: All right. Next is Dennis T. Worley.

17 MR. WORLEY: My name is Dennis Worley; I'm here on
18 behalf of C&W Partnership. I didn't know how many
19 folks were going to be here, but I'm going to
20 submit my record documents to the court reporter.
21 Exhibit 1, and if you'll put the map back up, it
22 shows our tract of land, 200 acres on the opposite
23 side of Number 9. Now I've seen the manager of
24 Wake Stone, he's been over there behind the thing.
25 We are opposed to this expansion. Now I'm

1 going to tell you why. Exhibit Number 2 is a e-
2 mail back to Wake Stone's lady. I think I've seen
3 her. Is that you? I asked her to provide me with
4 the amount of electricity, how often they're using
5 these pumps. Would y'all put that map back up?
6 Because my concern is, we own the land on the
7 opposite side. That stream flows through our land.
8 The green stream comes down and flows through our
9 land. I asked her to provide me certain details.
10 It seems that they can come in and apply for an
11 application, and then they don't have to provide
12 any other information. I asked that lady right
13 there to provide me with the information on how
14 long they operate their pumps, and I wanted that
15 information for a reason.

16 There is a case in the state of South
17 Carolina, Exhibit Number 3 versus -- "Johnson v.
18 Phillips," that says you cannot discharge a
19 substantial amount of water on the lower landowner.
20 I've got to hire a hydrologist, because, I guess,
21 you got to defend this. But I have a photograph or
22 a video, and I'd like to -- I think Mr. Water
23 Quality, I'd like for you to see the amount of
24 water -- and I'm sorry I tried to make a copy of
25 this -- but I want you to see the amount of water

1 flowing through this stream, and I bet you
2 everybody in this room would tell you that every
3 creek between Tabor City and Myrtle Beach has been
4 dry.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

6 MR. WORLEY: That this stream is flowing about 2 feet of
7 water, through a 5 foot culvert through to my land,
8 and it runs all the way. Well, I don't have a
9 hydrologist at this point, but I am trying to reach
10 one to retain one. So what did I do? I went to
11 AI. If you assume that a 5-foot tower at 0
12 pressure with 5 -- less than a half a foot grade,
13 it would allow the amount of water through it per
14 minute -- per minute, would be between 1600 and
15 2,136 gallons. If you apply that to an hour, that
16 would be 1,600,000 gallons in an hour. If you
17 apply that to a 24-hour period, that would be
18 between 16 million and 38 million gallons of water
19 that they're flowing through my property, draining
20 out of these folks' property. So I'm submitting
21 that as Exhibit Number 4.

22 I've asked them to come over and look at my
23 land and address my concern. I'm not -- I'm
24 hearing what these folks are saying about you
25 destroying their house, you're making the community

1 unsafe, you -- you -- you're going up to their
2 houses within 50 feet. You heard what the lady
3 said back here. Look, that's her house. It might
4 not be the Taj Mahal, but to her it's the most
5 important house in the land for her, and she's
6 entitled to be treated with dignity. And y'all
7 claim a 50-foot buffer is sufficient.

8 Sir, you've had the opportunity to -- to look
9 at my phone. I'll be glad to send you that video.
10 You supposed to be the water quality man. You --
11 you supposed to be concerned about the water
12 quality. Well, if you apply and assume that
13 there's 2 feet of water running through that 5-foot
14 tower and they dumping that much water on my
15 property every day, what is it doing to their
16 groundwater? What is it doing to my property? I
17 think that should be something you would be
18 concerned about. Now y'all should be protecting
19 the people of the great state of South Carolina.

20 MS. SAWYER: All right. If you have any documents you
21 want to turn in, I'll take them because they'll
22 actually go to our mining section.

23 MR. WORLEY: And I would ask that y'all just not make a
24 summary decision. When I pick a jury, and I -- I
25 see people from the community, I always ask, "Do

1 you have any preconceived ideas, or do you have an
2 open mind?" Not an open mind, but, "Do you have an
3 open disposition where you willing to listen to all
4 the evidence, not just make a decision because some
5 big company has submitted an application?" But
6 listen to these folks. This is their community.
7 My property is across the road. My concern is the
8 amount of water that you're flowing through me.
9 And that gentleman that was peeking around the
10 corner -- oh, here he is.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's still here.

12 MR. BOTZIS: I'm -- I'm going to make some comments in a
13 minute.

14 MR. WORLEY: I -- I -- I don't recall your name, but if
15 you --

16 MR. BOTZIS: I'll comment --

17 MS. SAWYER: All right.

18 MR. BOTZIS: I'll make some comments.

19 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

20 MR. WORLEY: That -- that's fine. He was going to come
21 address it. We haven't heard from him.

22 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

23 MR. WORLEY: But that much water -- and of course he's
24 claiming, or they claim it was coming from another
25 mine. Everything else is dry.

1 MS. SAWYER: I got a lot of people that need to speak --

2 MR. WORLEY: I understand, ma'am --

3 MS. SAWYER: -- tonight. We have -- you know, you have

4 had the --

5 MR. WORLEY: -- but it's affecting my property.

6 MS. SAWYER: I got you, but we're trying to give

7 everybody their time to speak.

8 MR. WORLEY: I'm going to sit down, but I would ask

9 y'all to consider and not have any preconceived

10 ideas.

11 MS. SAWYER: All right. Would Kendrick Hemingway still

12 like to speak?

13 MR. KENDRICK HEMINGWAY: Yes.

14 MS. SAWYER: Yes?

15 MR. KENDRICK HEMINGWAY: Uh-huh.

16 MS. SAWYER: Come on down front and state and spell your

17 name, please.

18 MR. KENDRICK HEMINGWAY: My name is Kendrick Hemingway,

19 K-e-n-d-r-i-c-k, H-e-m-i-n-g-w-a-y. As I just

20 stated, good evening. My name is Kendrick

21 Hemingway, and I'm here tonight as a concerned

22 member of the Cedar Branch community. I understand

23 that no permit has been issued and that this

24 proposal is still under review. That is exactly

25 why it is critical for SCDES to fully examine the

1 concerns of the community before making a final
2 decision.

3 Cedar Branch is just not a vacant land waiting
4 to be developed. This is an established community
5 where generations of family have lived, built
6 homes, raised children, worshiped, worked, and
7 invested in their properties. Our concerns are
8 serious. Residents have reported holes and
9 depressions developing in their yards, problems
10 with floors and foundations, and concerns regarding
11 drainage and ground stability.

12 We live in an area where -- where wetlands,
13 groundwater, drainage, and soil conditions matter.
14 These existing conditions should be thoroughly
15 documented and investigated, but because -- before
16 SCDES determines whether additional blasting,
17 dewatering, ground watering, pumping, or other
18 operations could make them worse.

19 We are all -- we are also asking SCDES to
20 physically examine the property and the surrounding
21 Cedar Branch community before making the decision.
22 Quarry operations already exist in the area, and
23 approximately 94.1 acres are involved in this
24 proposal -- excuse me -- currently, to know why it
25 -- it was -- was established. What protection is

1 currently -- currently provided? And what
2 scientific evidence demonstrates that allowing
3 quarry activity to move into the area will not
4 increase risk to nearby homes, wells, wetlands,
5 groundwater, and property?

6 We need to know what happens to our wells if
7 the water table changes. We need to know what
8 happens to our homes if blasting causes vibration.
9 We need to know what happens to our land if
10 groundwater conditions change, and -- and most
11 importantly, we need to know who will be held
12 accountable if the predictions are wrong and the
13 residents suffer damages years from now.

14 Once a family well goes dry, a foundation is
15 damaged, land begins to sink, or groundwater is
16 affected, telling the family afterward that the
17 project met permitting requirements will not
18 restore what they lost. This is why I respectfully
19 ask SCDES to require comprehensive and independent
20 scientific review, baseline testing of surrounding
21 conditions, meaningful long-term monitoring, and
22 clear accountability before considering approval of
23 any permit associated with this project.

24 The burden should not be placed on the
25 citizens of Cedar Branch to prove damage after it

1 happens. Those proposing this project should be
2 required to demonstrate, before permits are issued,
3 that our water, home, land, wetlands, and community
4 will be protected. We are not -- we are not
5 against progress, but progress should never require
6 an establishment -- established community to gamble
7 with its homes, its water, its property, or its
8 future.

9 Please hear our concerns now, while there is
10 still an opportunity to prevent harm and that --
11 and respond, but when it's too late. Cedar Branch
12 deserves to be protected, not only for those of us
13 who live here today, but for the generations who
14 will come to the community when they will call it
15 home tomorrow. Thank you.

16 MS. SAWYER: Thank you. Monica Whalen.

17 MS. WHALEN: Monica Whalen, M-o-n-i-c-a, W-h-a-l-e-n.

18 Hi, I'm Monica Whalen. I'm an attorney for the
19 South Carolina Environmental Law Project, which is
20 a public interest environmental law firm. I first
21 want to talk about the reduction of buffers from 94
22 acres of buffers to just 50 feet. From the
23 application materials, it says that buffer areas
24 are areas that will be not disturbed beyond the
25 pre-mine natural state and provide distance between

1 mining operation and the neighboring properties and
2 wetlands.

3 And as we've heard tonight, there are
4 neighboring properties near this proposed affected
5 area. They're decided on a case-by-case basis, and
6 the size of the buffer and setback from the permit
7 boundary is dependent on the nature of the mine,
8 the neighboring land use, and the purpose of the
9 buffer area. Within the buffer, there is 2.7 acres
10 of wetlands that are going to be impacted, and as
11 I've mentioned, there are people that live near the
12 -- this buffer or previous buffer.

13 This mine also includes blasting, and with
14 blasting, DES have reports of rocks flying more
15 than 1,000 feet when blasting is involved.

16 The next point I want to make is that the
17 reclamation plan appears to be incomplete, making
18 the whole application incomplete. From Section 48-
19 20-40(15) under the South Carolina Mining Act, it
20 says that, "Reclamation plans must include the
21 method of prevention or elimination of conditions
22 that are hazardous to animal or fish life in or
23 adjacent to the area; the method of compliance with
24 state air and water pollution laws; and the
25 proposed methods to limit significant adverse

1 effects on the adjacent surface water and
2 groundwater resources." And this could be included
3 in the reclamation plan that is for the whole
4 permit, but this wasn't provided to the community
5 for tonight.

6 But one thing that I know for sure that is
7 incomplete, is that there isn't a time schedule.
8 That's one of the requirements under this act. And
9 a community member asked if there was a timeline
10 for when the reclamation activities would be
11 completed, and that question was not able to be
12 answered. Further in Section 48-20-90, it says
13 that, "The plan must provide that reclamation
14 activities must be completed within two years after
15 completion or termination of mining on each segment
16 of the area, for which an operating permit is
17 requested." And when you look at the mining
18 application, it just has the plan tiered for when
19 the reclamation will be completed, but for many of
20 the -- the new activity, it just says "TBD," and
21 for that reason, this application appears to be
22 incomplete at this time. That is all.

23 MS. SAWYER: Regina Hemingway.

24 MS. REGINA HEMINGWAY: My name is Regina Hemingway, R-e-
25 g-i-n-a, H-e-m-i-n-g-w-a-y. I'm speaking tonight

1 because I've been going around to all the
2 neighbors' houses. There are people that has holes
3 in their land -- in their land. They got houses
4 that has dropped. A couple of people, their doors
5 don't close, because the land's already sinking in
6 Cedar Branch. And they said they're going straight
7 down; I don't believe that. I think they're going
8 to all kinds of channels, because if they weren't
9 going all over the channels, how would so many
10 houses be damaged? And I live 2 miles from the
11 noises. But the light is shining right in my --
12 when they was mining, the light was right there in
13 my yard. All I had to do was walk out the door. I
14 didn't need no outside lights. And all that
15 blowing stuff that was going on. My -- my whole
16 yard shake. You could go outside and stand on the
17 ground, and you can feel the vibration. So ain't
18 no way they were just mining there, and I'm feeling
19 it way down 2 miles down there, and then now they
20 talking about a 50-foot buffer, what's that going
21 to do for us?

22 So we don't want them in our community
23 destroying our habitat. This is where we belong,
24 and when my children and my grandchildren inherit
25 my land, I don't want it to be a mud hole. We're

1 already at wetland. So with all the water that he
2 talking about, it's just going to make more water
3 settle in our land. We already got driveways now
4 that still got water that used to didn't have water
5 in them now. A lot of things happening in our land
6 that have happened in the last two to three years
7 was not happening before they started mining.

8 And if y'all wanted to come and look at our
9 houses, in 2021 when y'all started, that was the
10 time to come out and look at all the houses,
11 because now we got houses that's got roofs leaking,
12 we got floors falling in, we got backyards caving.
13 So what y'all going to do about that since this
14 y'all mine and y'all mining? Thank you.

15 MS. SAWYER: Hazel Jackson, would you still like to
16 speak?

17 MS. JACKSON: My name is Hazel Jackson, and before the
18 mine come, I have a deep -- a deep well -- a deep
19 well water where you water -- deep well pump. All
20 the way down to the deep well water, I had good
21 water. And after the -- y'all got there, after the
22 mine got there, my pump -- the first thing, it
23 dried up. And they came out and checked it out for
24 a minute; it was dried all the way up. It went all
25 the way down down, deeper deeper and they couldn't

1 find it. Then they told me, said "Well, you know,
2 since that mine is over there, a lot of the pumps
3 has already went -- went dry." So -- and my house
4 is dropped. My doors is not closing like they used
5 to close, some of them. That's just the problem
6 that I'm having with mine. Thank you.

7 MS. SAWYER: Joseph Frinks.

8 MR. JOSEPH FRINKS: Joseph Frinks, J-o-s-e-p-h, F-r-i-n-
9 k-s. And my concern is, my wife and I, we're about
10 to move onto Cedar Branch Road, and we're about to
11 make a major investment. And the -- also, I would
12 like to know, when it comes to this mining company
13 getting this permit to expand into people
14 backyards, that 50-foot barriers really is garbage.
15 But I would like to know how much weight that the
16 concern of these citizens carry on the decision to
17 give them this permit. Because you can meet the
18 requirements of the board and still what -- what's
19 to say that the board could deny it, could -- well,
20 my question is -- my question is: How much weight
21 does -- what -- what our concerns carry in the
22 approval of this permit? Because she said they got
23 the folks from South Carolina Department of
24 Environment, they saying that the mining company
25 has to meet certain requirements.

1 That's simple for the mining company to meet
2 them requirements. I mean, I've been -- I worked
3 with the government 42 years, from a teenager all
4 the way up to 62. And once you -- once they meet
5 the requirements, make a long story short, once
6 they meet the requirements, what's the -- what --
7 the weight of our concerns, would that be enough
8 for you guys to deny them that mine from getting
9 the permit? Probably not, because the first thing
10 they going to say is, "We met all the
11 requirements."

12 "You guys qualify for the permit." So I would
13 like to know how much weight what we say carries.

14 That's all I have.

15 MS. SAWYER: Elliott Botzis.

16 MR. BOTZIS: So my name is Elliott Botzis. I'm the vice
17 president and general manager for Vulcan Materials,
18 who owns Wake Stone, and over the South Carolina
19 operations. Thank you, DES, and thank you for the
20 concerned citizens for being here. Vulcan in South
21 Carolina operates 20 -- 20 facilities. But in 22
22 states, we operate over 400 facilities. You can't
23 have that type of a company if you operate
24 irresponsibly.

25 We're a heavy regulated industry in federal

1 and state government, and the safety of our
2 employees is our top priority. And what I mean by
3 safety is also environmental compliance. And
4 through having the safety, health and environmental
5 as our top priority, then therefore the communities
6 that we serve as well and our neighbors are
7 protected.

8 Vulcan acquired Wake Stone in 2024. Wake has
9 operated this site since 2001 without any issues.
10 When Vulcan made the decision to purchase this
11 site, that was a heavy consideration, of course, is
12 the safety and environmental record that Wake Stone
13 has had. We have every intention like we do in all
14 of our other 20 facilities, and over 400, of acting
15 responsibly, giving back to the community, which we
16 do, and we have every intention of doing that here
17 as well.

18 Wake Stone owns this property, and we need to
19 obviously open a new area. And by opening that new
20 area in the limestone that we mine, that's an
21 agricultural product for farmers. That's also in
22 all of the base stone that goes out for the
23 infrastructure -- needed infrastructure in this
24 county as well.

25 I'll be here if anybody wants to talk to me,

1 just like we were when we had a community meeting
2 and I met you in May, to address any of your -- any
3 of your concerns.

4 MR. WORLEY: You say that, but why didn't you provide me
5 the information?

6 MS. SAWYER: So now is not the time for a debate. This
7 is --

8 MR. WORLEY: I know but he's saying something.

9 MS. SAWYER: -- a promise for the public record.

10 MR. WORLEY: Why didn't he provide -- provide the
11 information?

12 MS. SAWYER: We'll -- we will --

13 MR. BOTZIS: Be happy -- be happy to talk to you
14 further. I talked to your business partner.

15 MR. WORLEY: I asked for 60 -- 60 days.

16 MS. SAWYER: We -- you can have that conversation after
17 our hearing, sir.

18 MR. BOTZIS: Be happy to meet with you anytime.

19 MS. SAWYER: Thank you.

20 MR. WORLEY: Oh, I understand. It sounds nice.

21 MS. SAWYER: So next up to speak is Vangalene Frinks.

22 MS. VANGALENE FRINKS: Good evening. My name is
23 Vangalene Frinks and I am a DOD --

24 V-a-n-g-a-l-e-n-e, Frinks, F-r-i-n-k-s. And I'm a
25 DOD federal employment retiree. I'm here to

1 address concerns of not just my concern, but the
2 Cedar Branch community, family and friends and
3 neighbors. Welcome everyone. But my concern is we
4 -- my husband and I just relocated back here to
5 Cedar Branch. And my concern is, once we build, as
6 well as anyone else that's building or have their
7 homes already, if our home -- homes is destroyed,
8 the house itself, the structure of the house, who
9 is responsible of repairing it? Is that reflect
10 back on us as the citizens, or do we -- I know we
11 have to take pictures, video, document and turn it
12 in. But once we turn it in, I just got that
13 feeling they going to say it's back on us.

14 Even if an engineer or anybody come out to
15 look at my home, they going to charge, and they
16 going to price you. They say, "Well, in order to
17 repair your roof, that's going to be about 5-6
18 thousand dollars." Or if it's the grounds, if it
19 -- like, say the sinkholes, and I was told last
20 week that they may come out -- they'll come out and
21 do -- repair one sinkhole per year. I don't know
22 if that's still the case, but what happens if you
23 have multiple sinkholes over the year because, you
24 know, it is wetland and it keeps sinking, decaying.
25 If I have another sinkhole on this side and I call,

1 they prepare it. But what if I have a sinkhole
2 here, a sin hole here, and I call them back and
3 say, "Okay. Your one time is over the year"? So
4 now that falls on me to prepare my sinkholes. And
5 then once I prepare my sinkholes, that can get
6 pricey, in the thousands.

7 The second thing is -- next thing is, with the
8 -- the perimeter, 50-feet perimeter, whatever, I'm
9 concerned with the children. I worked with kids
10 all my life. My concern is, like, when we see
11 lakes and ponds, soon as you blink your eye, you
12 got kids or grandkids, they gone. So my concern
13 is, I know they probably not going to fence that
14 area because that's a lot of land. So we just have
15 to monitor our kids, but I'm -- just have that fear
16 of kids drowning, or whatever the case may be, even
17 adults, you never know. But that's my concerns.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. SAWYER: Forcanotta Parker.

20 MS. PARKER: Correction. It's Forcanotta Parker. I
21 have a -- a property on Highway 9. Would you like
22 me to spell it? It's F as in Frank, O as in Oscar,
23 R, C as in cat, A as in apple, T as in Tom, T as in
24 Tom, A as in apple (verbatim), Parker, P-a-r-k-e-r.

25 I have a property on Highway 9 that's going to

1 -- well, when you guys do the new one, supposedly,
2 I already have one on the back of my property. So
3 this one is going to be there. And I think someone
4 stated that it's like an island. I'm already on
5 the island. I've replaced my roof three times.
6 I've had water damage, and that can be pricey as a
7 single mom with no job.

8 I have the debris from them mining. I have to
9 get my house pressure washed all the time. Well, I
10 have a chip that's there on my floors. My house is
11 sinking, so one side is down from the other, and
12 you can see I have documentation of that as well.
13 I'll also provide it on the website when I do my
14 e-mail as well. So my concern is, with my property
15 being that I am responsible for replacing all the
16 damage that's already done, who is going to be
17 responsible for any future damages that may happen
18 if you guys put that mine on the other side of me,
19 because you are -- when you do that, I'm already
20 blocked in. That would be my concern.

21 MS. SAWYER: Veronica Thompson Frink.

22 MS. VERONICA FRINK: Veronica Thompson Frink, V-e-r-o-n-
23 i-c-a, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n, Frink, F-r-i-n-k. Our
24 community has suffered a lot so far in the 25 years
25 that the pit has been there, that the quarry has

1 been there. So we have come up with a petition to
2 oppose this, and the petition reads as, "We the
3 undersigned residents, homeowners, taxpayers, and
4 concerned citizens of Horry County in the near
5 Cedar Branch community and all surrounding
6 communities, respectfully petition county and state
7 officials to deny, suspend, or reconsider the
8 proposed expansion of mining operations by Vulcan
9 Materials Company, North Myrtle Beach Quarry,
10 formerly known as Wake Stone Corporation, North
11 Myrtle Beach Quarry."

12 "According to the notice sent to some of the
13 nearby residents, the company plans to open a new
14 94-acre mining section on the eastern side of this
15 property near established residential areas. While
16 the company states its intents to follow the
17 regulations and safety procedures, many residents
18 remain deeply concerned about the long-term
19 environmental, structural, and public safety
20 impacts this expansion may create. Listed here,
21 you will find some of the community concerns, and
22 reasons why we oppose this expansion."

23 "Number one, risk to ground stability and
24 sinkholes. Residents fear the -- the continued
25 excavation and underground disruption may

1 destabilize the land and increase the risk of
2 sinkholes, erosion, land collapse, increased
3 flooding and drainage issues for the geological
4 damage affecting homes, roads, and properties in
5 the Cedar Branch and nearby neighborhoods and
6 properties."

7 "Number two, potential damage to groundwater
8 wells. Mining activities may affect groundwater
9 levels, water quality, drainage systems, and
10 private wells. Many residents rely on safe
11 groundwater and are concerned about contamination
12 or long-term depletion."

13 "Number three, threats to property values.
14 The expansion of the mining operation near the
15 homes may negatively affect property values, reduce
16 buyer interest in the future if the property owner
17 decides to sell in the future, and financially harm
18 homeowners who invested in the community expecting
19 a safe, stable, residential environment."

20 "Number four, noise, dust, vibration, and in
21 and out traffic. Even if production levels remain
22 the same, continued mining operations can create
23 ongoing noise pollution, blasting, vibrations,
24 airborne dust, and increased loud heavy equipment
25 activity such as cranes, haul/dump trucks,

1 excavators, hydraulic shovels, drag lines,
2 bulldozers, motor graders, rotor drills, rigs,
3 crushers, and grinding mills, and underground
4 explosives. All these impact the residents'
5 quality of life."

6 "Number five, environmental and wildlife
7 concerns. Residents are concerned about the
8 destruction of natural habitat, long-term
9 environmental degradation, deportation (verbatim),
10 forcing the wildlife into the community, therefore
11 causing safety issues from the wildlife, and harm
12 to wildlife ecosystems surrounding the quarry
13 property."

14 "Number six, lack of independent long-term
15 impact studies. We request that independent
16 geological, environmental, and hydrological studies
17 be conducted before any expansion is approved.
18 Residents deserve true, transparent -- transparent
19 scientific review and public accountability. Most
20 of these concerns, we the residents have already
21 ongoing the effects of the mining company that the
22 distance that they are already operating from.
23 Home and property damage, sickness and allergies
24 from the dust debris from the quarry, the loud
25 noise of the all day and night heavy machinery

1 equipment, and sound of underground blasting,
2 vibrating, and shaking the stability of our homes.
3 Some of us can't get any rest or sleep at night."

4 "We request that the expansion operation be
5 stopped, to cease and desist. We're asking the
6 state to protect residential communities from
7 industrial encroachment. We all want to live in
8 peace and safety, not only for our generation now,
9 but our children, and our children's children, and
10 their children. Generation after generation."

11 Listed are the names from the Cedar Branch
12 community and nearby communities who are affected
13 by the quarry -- quarry. And I have the petition,
14 and I'm going to get a few more people that are
15 here to sign as well. We already have over 200 and
16 some signatures. And we just want to state to the
17 state that we want to have this stopped. We do not
18 want to allow this to go on.

19 My home is right in the boundary of -- of this
20 area where it's being affected. So they're going
21 to be in my backyard, which are already cleared out
22 the land all the way up nearly to my back door in
23 my backyard. So they're all the way around on the
24 left side of my house, and then coming around where
25 me and my neighbor on the right side of my house.

1 So I'm going to be in the circle, which if
2 something happens, I am definitely going to be in
3 that sinkhole.

4 So we're asking that the state please do not
5 allow them to go forward with this process. Take
6 it somewhere else. Take it to another community.
7 Take it to your community. Go dig over there, not
8 here. Thank you.

9 MS. SAWYER: Next is Vanessa Moore. Would you still
10 like to speak?

11 MS. MOORE: No.

12 MS. SAWYER: Tremelia Gore. I'm probably saying that
13 wrong. No? Pass?

14 Mary Lee Green.

15 MS. LATORYA GREEN: I'll speak on behalf of her. That's
16 my mom. I'm Latorya Green. I didn't want to step
17 over all these people. I know, right?

18 MS. LATORYA GREEN: L-a-t-o-r-y-a. Green, G-r-e-e-n.
19 I'm going to oppose this proposal because I believe
20 the existing buffer served a purpose that's
21 important to us. It was to protect the surrounding
22 community from impacts of quarry operations.
23 Removing or reducing the buffer brings mining
24 closer to our homes and increase our concerns about
25 dust, noise, blasting, vibration, drainage,

1 groundwater, and our overall quality of life. I'm
2 also concerned about transparency and
3 accountability.

4 We recently learned that residents were
5 entitled to receive a load of coquina rock at no
6 cost, yet many residents were never aware of this
7 opportunity, and therefore never took advantage of
8 it. While I understand the quarry may not have
9 been obligated to ensure every residence received
10 that coquina rock, I have to ask: Did it not raise
11 a red flag that residents were not taking advantage
12 of something that they were entitled to, when their
13 yards are flooding, their houses are sinking, and
14 decaying? Could that have been because residents
15 were not properly informed? That experience alone
16 makes us question what other information, benefits,
17 protections, or conditions residents may not know
18 about. We're simply asking for assurance that the
19 community's interests are being protected from
20 further damage.

21 We understand that limestone can be used for
22 farming and for infrastructure. We also understand
23 that true farming is far and few in between. We
24 understand that there's other ways to provide
25 infrastructure. You don't have to suck the life

1 out of us, literally, to provide those things.

2 For these reasons, I respectfully oppose
3 allowing the existing buffer to be mined, and I ask
4 SCDES to carefully consider the concerns of the
5 residents who will live with the consequences of
6 this decision, for the rest of their life, their
7 children's lives, and the lives after. Thank you.

8 MS. SAWYER: Keith Hemingway.

9 MR. KEITH HEMINGWAY: Keith Hemingway, K-e-i-t-h, H-e-m-
10 i-n-g-w-a-y. My question is, on that buffer, I
11 noticed that we see we only got one. Where is the
12 buffer on all the other property around here?
13 There's no buffer. There should be a buffer where
14 I can see and know -- know the location of it,
15 because I feel like the buffer at Cedar Branch, I
16 feel like I'm -- just me. I feel we got singled
17 out because we're a small community. Now if they
18 want -- if they want to mine, they can mine all
19 around us, but they didn't, just only around Cedar
20 Branch. Now, they have got more property on the
21 other side of that buffer. Got to be somewhere
22 over there without targeting Cedar Branch. That's
23 my question.

24 MS. SAWYER: Gearlene Hemingway?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Gearlene.

1 MS. SAWYER: Gearlene Hemingway? You going to pass?

2 Okay. Jason Miller? All right. Jason's passing.

3 How about Robert Cox?

4 MR. COX: Yeah. Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

6 MR. COX: Yes. My name is Robert Cox, R-o-b-e-r-t,

7 C-o-x. And I own the property off to the -- across

8 Cedar Branch Road. It's about 45-acre tract, and I

9 -- there's no doubt that the -- what the mine is

10 currently doing, and the impact that it's having on

11 this community. We've had that property in our

12 family for a long time and have plans for that.

13 And it's obvious that it's already been a big

14 detriment to the existing community there, and it

15 will be a -- a -- a -- a -- a negative factor going

16 forward for anybody that wants to -- wants to move

17 there.

18 So it's our request that that buffer that's

19 there now, that 90-some-acre area, that they're

20 requesting to be permitted, that it'll be --

21 continue to be a buffer, and that they be

22 encouraged to look for property on the bottom

23 portion of that existing 1300-acre tract that they

24 already have and where there's no homes or

25 anything. And -- and so these folks -- and I'm

1 certainly -- we -- we need to make sure these folks
2 that have been affected by it, that are -- are --
3 that it -- it won't be worse by making -- enlarging
4 this area that they're mining now. So that's --
5 it's our -- my recommendation to decline the
6 request.

7 MS. SAWYER: Stacy Bell.

8 MS. BELL: Hi. My name is Stacy, S-t-a-c-y, Bell,
9 B-e-l-l, and I too think it should be declined, I
10 feel. I heard you say you guys have 22 companies
11 that you own, but how many of them are near
12 minority areas? What is the effect it's doing to
13 their properties, as you bring that into our
14 community now where we don't have a lot of money to
15 fix and repair things that you guys tear up? So I
16 really think that it should be denied, for the sake
17 of our community. That's all I have.

18 MS. SAWYER: Kelly Hemingway.

19 MS. KELLY HEMINGWAY: My name is Kelly. Excuse me. My
20 name is Kelly Hemingway, K-e-l-l-y, H-e-m-i-n-g-w-
21 a-y. Thank you. My concerns is that we're a small
22 community, and the property that we own, a lot of
23 us inherited it, and they are making money. And we
24 are having to spend money in order to survive.
25 Everybody in my household, we are taking allergy

1 medicines. I'm taking allergy shots. My house
2 stay dusty outside and inside.

3 We wasn't warned the effects that them making
4 money could cost us, and we are not supported by
5 them. Hearing now that we were eligible for a load
6 of coquina every year, I never heard that until
7 this time. Where we're spending all this money to
8 try to keep our house and property up, who's going
9 to reimburse the ones that had to kick out money?
10 I got holes in my yards.

11 My concerns always been the highway too, all
12 the way through Cedar Branch. It's uneven. The --
13 the pavement is broken. Sinkholes all in the
14 roads. When we riding bikes and stuff, it's very
15 dangerous. If somebody get hurt on their bikes
16 riding there or the car fall into a hole or whatnot
17 -- because I called -- I called the draining
18 department about a -- when I -- when I first saw
19 that the road was caving in; they sent somebody out
20 to patch it. That's caving in too.

21 So we get hurt on bikes, or any -- any -- a
22 car or whatever vehicle we're driving, who's going
23 to be responsible for that? Is we going to be
24 reimbursed? And you can't give us life back.

25 Our lungs are going to be messed up. And

1 that's my concern. So I'm asking that y'all don't
2 allow them to continue doing destruction to our
3 community. I don't know if it's because we're a
4 small community or the majority of us are African-
5 Americans. But I don't think they should take
6 advantage of us -- life, for money. Thank y'all.

7 MS. SAWYER: Marguerite McClam?

8 MS. MCCLAM: I'm good.

9 MS. SAWYER: Okay. Floyd Parker? I think that says
10 Parker. No?

11 Okay. How about Reatha Chestnut?

12 MS. CHESTNUT: I decline.

13 MS. SAWYER: Decline. Gwendolyn Stackhouse?

14 MS. STACKHOUSE: Keep going.

15 MS. SAWYER: Kangela Ravenell? Nope? All right.
16 Wadell Hemingway?

17 MR. WADELL HEMINGWAY: No. No.

18 MS. SAWYER: No? Okay. Jerome Jackson?

19 MR. JEROME JACKSON: My name is Jerome Jackson, and I
20 live in the first house as you turn off Highway
21 Number 9. And I'm concerned about it because I'm
22 surrounded 50 foot -- they say 50 foot on each
23 side. I'll be -- I'm in the -- like in a island:
24 50 foot on this side, and 50 foot on that side, and
25 50 foot on the back. And that -- like, say from

1 this wall from over here to this wall over there,
2 and -- and I just might wake up underground, the
3 whole house. That's what I'm concerned about. And
4 I have researched some background where they did
5 mining like that before. People had houses and
6 they sank under. What -- what say that this don't
7 do this to -- to it? I mean, I might not be here
8 to see it, but my grandchildren and my children
9 might be here to see. That's what I'm concerned
10 about it.

11 And far as the noise, I can hear them back
12 there now, right now. And they way further --
13 further than 50 foot now, where they think I can --
14 I can hear them now. And it sounds like they
15 drilling with a -- like you take a sledgehammer and
16 beating on a piece of metal. You can hear that.
17 "Bam, bam, bam." I mean, you can hear that. So I
18 know 50 foot you -- much louder -- be much louder.
19 That's all I have to say.

20 MS. SAWYER: Ben Hartman, would you still like to speak?

21 No Ben? Okay. Buford and Della Tann?

22 MR. TANN: I decline.

23 MS. SAWYER: Decline. Janie Green Long.

24 MS. LONG: I pass.

25 MS. SAWYER: Brenten Graham.

1 MS. GRAHAM: Pass.

2 MS. SAWYER: Tasha Green.

3 MS. TASHA GREEN: That's me. Hi, my name is Tasha

4 Green. It's spelled T-a-s-h-a. Last name is G-r-

5 e-e-n. So like he said earlier that people should

6 have came out and took pictures of the houses

7 before they started mining or whatever they did.

8 But I don't understand, back here in 2001, why they

9 didn't come back. Oh, yeah, let me give you my

10 address too so you'll know it. It's 280 Cedar

11 Branch Road. They are actually right there behind

12 our house. We can step out our door, and you can

13 see -- I mean, you can't see them, but you can see

14 the -- you can hear the noise. You can see the

15 lights. You can hear every time it explode. You

16 can stand in our floor and feel the gravitation of

17 the ground. Because us house is already dropped.

18 Our house is breaking in half. We right now have a

19 dumpster in this yard where we trying to work on it

20 room by room where this house is actually

21 separating itself.

22 It's a foundation problem. Everybody already

23 told us. So we already repaired two floors, and

24 now our walls are separating from the ceiling to --

25 in the crease. We already a flood zone. The water

1 is already in our yard. Yes, we have sinkholes as
2 well. We have --everything that they talking
3 about, we got it. But the main concern is we're
4 fixing our house -- us house right now as we speak,
5 piece by piece. Where is us money at? We need
6 someone to help fix it. Y'all need to come out.
7 Come out and help. The dumpster is right there in
8 the yard. The -- if you look at us porch, one side
9 of the porch this way, the other is high. If you
10 stand on the back of us house and look at it, you
11 can see the house is whopped with the frame is
12 breaking. And it's a 16-by-80 house. A 16-by-80.
13 So come on. That's all I have to say.

14 MS. SAWYER: Jimmetta Wolfe?

15 MS. WOLFE: Pass.

16 MS. SAWYER: Calandra Green? Pass?

17 MS. SAWYER: Maxine Hemingway? All right. Michele
18 Squires.

19 MS. SQUIRES: Michele Squires. And it's one "L" in
20 Michele, okay?

21 THE COURT REPORTER: Squires?

22 MS. SQUIRES: Squires, S-q-u-i-r-e-s. Well, this is my
23 family as well. But my concern is about the air
24 quality, you know. That has a lot of, like he
25 said, dust. I'm a -- I'm a licensed practical

1 nurse. I'm very concerned about the air quality.
2 Like she -- Kelly said, she suffers from asthma
3 already. And I know for myself, my son, he
4 suffered for a lot of things. I have to take him
5 to the hospital. He -- he constantly has sinus
6 infection, and a lot of other people in the area
7 does too. That is my great concern. What we're
8 breathing in is not just -- it might show up as
9 COPD and everything, but it's the blasting and the
10 dust particles that's coming and we're inhaling it.
11 And the long-term effect of that to our bodies and
12 all, I'm very concerned about that.

13 And then the water, as you -- you had up
14 there, the water -- a lake flood my home. I built
15 me a house for my family, for us to live there and
16 everything. Flood insurance. That's a very
17 concern to us. Not only homeowner insurance. You
18 have to have homeowner's insurance, and plus flood
19 insurance is extra. That is my concern, you know.

20 And -- and anxiety. The children go to school
21 and all. They hear them blasting at night. How
22 can they go to school and function properly, at
23 night? All right? I'm very concerned about that.
24 The noise. It can cause anxiety. A lot of people
25 suffering in Cedar Branch from anxiety and

1 depression, and the lack of sleep can cause that.

2 That's what I'm concerned about and all.

3 And also, in my new house, I am getting some
4 cracking in my roof. I had to have Mr. Royale
5 (phonetic), right here, to do some repairs on my
6 house a couple times on my -- on -- on the outside
7 of my house and the roof and everything where
8 things are not right properly and all. Even down
9 on my floor, it's concrete foundation. It's
10 shifting as well.

11 And in my yard, I bought coquina limestone
12 from y'all to level out my ground, you know. And I
13 am a single mom at my house, and I have a son, you
14 know. And I'm very concerned about those things
15 and all. And I -- I think a lot of them said a lot
16 of good things that made a lot of points. And I --
17 I'm -- I'm a 100 percent with them. So I oppose of
18 y'all coming here where my grandfather worked many
19 years on the farm, and -- and I aired this.

20 And this is for -- not only for me, but my
21 property. It extends to my brother, my sister, my
22 nieces, my cousins, because this is the main house
23 for our family. And I want to be able to stay
24 there and us do family functions, a lot more family
25 functions, and everything like that. Enjoy our

1 family and all. And -- and -- and I can serve my
2 community. I know I don't do as much as I should
3 be, but I do -- I love everybody in our community,
4 our family. And that's -- that's all I wanted to
5 say.

6 MS. SAWYER: Sara Rich.

7 MS. RICH: Sara Rich, S-a-r-a, R-i-c-h. I've listened
8 to a lot of what the community has -- has said this
9 evening. The only thing I can think of to add to
10 the public comments tonight is -- is regarding
11 septic tanks. And if members of the community are
12 on septic tanks, then all of this vibration from
13 blasting, from drilling, could be affecting the
14 quality of the septic tanks, the integrity of the
15 septic tanks, which then affects the integrity of
16 wells, of drinking water, of again, habitat,
17 wildlife, everybody, right? So I would really
18 encourage DES to look into this and make sure that
19 everyone is -- is staying safe. Thank you.

20 MS. SAWYER: Mike Jaronczyk? James Hemingway.

21 MS. JAMES HEMINGWAY: My name is James Hemingway. J-a-
22 m-e-s, H-e-m-i-n-g-w-a-y. My concern about this
23 thing is the quality of life for our -- our
24 community. Okay. Our forefathers struggled. If
25 you want evidence, you can take your -- anytime

1 y'all sitting around shooting jive (phonetic),
2 whatever you're doing, on your weekend, whatever
3 you're doing, having a good one or whatever, you
4 need to watch Struggle Tape, okay? There's a lot
5 of history behind that community that you folks
6 came in this community and have no idea about. And
7 I'm not mocking what you do. Everybody have a job
8 to do, but we have a way of life. So our life is
9 in Cedar Branch community, okay?

10 Now, what my biggest concern is, when y'all
11 propose whatever you're proposing, how are you
12 going to safeguard this community? And I asked the
13 question earlier. That should have been later.
14 But that's my question, because I'm going back to a
15 few years back. We've already had two of our young
16 men to be drowned in these ponds in this community.
17 We don't want anymore. We have kids. Kids do
18 things. Now you guys tell me -- let me make sure I
19 got this right. You said 700 -- if I wrote it
20 down, 763 acres y'all -- y'all proposing, right?
21 Right?

22 MR. MYERS: I can't comment.

23 MS. JAMES HEMINGWAY: I mean, somebody answer the
24 question.

25 MS. SAWYER: This is just a time for comments and

1 statements.

2 MR. JAMES HEMINGWAY: Okay. No. I -- I -- I want
3 someone to explain --

4 MS. SAWYER: No questions right now, all right?

5 MS. JAMES HEMINGWAY: Okay? Okay. So I'm going to say
6 like 800 acres. Okay? Y'all want to play games?
7 800 acres. That's bigger than a military base.
8 Okay? You said you going to put a fence around
9 that whole property. 800 acres. Military don't
10 even got bases that big. So y'all mean to tell me
11 you're going to take every cent you make and put a
12 fence around its whole perimeter. It ain't going
13 to happen. Vegetation is not going to keep these
14 kids from going into those ponds or whatever y'all
15 call it, reservoir. It is not going to happen. We
16 don't want to lose any more kids because y'all
17 decide y'all want to -- y'all and the bureaucrats,
18 maybe, want to give this community this expansion,
19 which we don't need.

20 Everybody done said their homes are falling
21 apart. Y'all don't live out here. Y'all may live
22 in a mansion. They live in a small home. That's
23 their castle. Please don't take that from them.
24 But from the sound, to me, you've already made
25 your consumption (verbatim) on this project. Now

1 that's just my opinion, and I'm entitled to that.
2 But please, you see these people in here, they're
3 here for a reason. This community means something
4 to them.

5 And I would hope y'all would have the same
6 transparency to consider these folks, including me.
7 If you was living in this community, how would you
8 want someone you feel to come and sweep the rug
9 from under you? Because basically that's how we
10 feel. We -- we being stepped on a rug, and you
11 guys just come and do this. And we can't have
12 that. And I would -- I would hope y'all guys would
13 dig deep down in your hearts, and consider this
14 project. Thank you.

15 MS. SAWYER: Grace Gordon. Grace Gordon.

16 MR. GORDON: Oh, coming up?

17 MS. SAWYER: Yep. I believe so. Or, no. I'm sorry. I
18 saw you stand up and thought maybe that was you.
19 That's not you?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, no, no.

21 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You haven't called my name.

23 MS. SAWYER: All right. All right. Grace passes. How
24 about Joshua Gordon? Is Joshua here and would like
25 to speak? All right. Kenny Vaught? Nope. Linda

1 Hemingway.

2 MS. LINDA HEMINGWAY: They have said a lot.

3 MS. SAWYER: Uh-huh.

4 MS. LINDA HEMINGWAY: And -- and anything that I can add
5 is that this community is just now -- I can't come
6 over there. I'm on two canes. This community is
7 just now beginning to really prosper. Their
8 children have been educated; they've gone to
9 college, you hear what I'm saying? They're coming
10 home and building houses, but they're going to
11 build houses on shaky ground. So I don't think
12 it's a good idea for them to have this mining
13 operation in our backyard. That's it.

14 MS. SAWYER: Okay. So you'll get her name correct?

15 It's Linda, L-i-n-d-a.

16 MS. LINDA HEMINGWAY: L-i-n-d-a, H-e-m-i-n-g-w-a-y.

17 MS. SAWYER: All right. So that is everyone who signed
18 up to comment tonight. If anyone else wishes to
19 speak, please raise your hand. Okay.

20 MR. WORLEY: I would just ask y'all -- you guys,
21 especially Mr. Water Quality, if y'all would make
22 an inquiry --

23 MS. SAWYER: Hang on. Hang on. Keep -- keep it down.

24 MR. WORLEY: How much current discharge does Wake Stone
25 or Vulcan, whoever they are, how much water can

1 they discharge per day? Is there a limit on that?
2 Then secondly, can y'all subpoena and get their
3 records? And do this as administrative function
4 instead of some of us lawyers having to file a
5 lawsuit. Can you find out how many hours they're
6 running their pumps and what their electrical bill
7 and how much water they're actually discharging
8 into my stream?

9 Sir, you should be concerned about the water
10 quality. They going to say the water quality is
11 okay because it's coming out of their settlement
12 lake. The problem is -- is the volume. You guys
13 have the ability to subpoena. I've asked for the
14 records, and the gentleman there says, "Oh, we --
15 for the good of the community, we -- for the good
16 of ourselves." Well, it's a lot of good for them,
17 but there's no documentation coming back to the
18 people it's affecting. So I would ask y'all to
19 find out what the discharge permit or parameters
20 are of the water they're pumping out. It's
21 probably causing these folks a lot of problems.

22 Secondly, are they exceeding that? Thirdly,
23 the way you look at it is you figure out the volume
24 of the pumps. How much can the pumps pump in a
25 day? You figure out how much electricity one of

1 these pumps use, and you can extrapolate and
2 determine: Are they running them 24/7? Now that's
3 just a question. That's not a statement. But why
4 is the water on my side 2 feet deep when all the
5 streams from --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's dry.

7 MR. WORLEY: -- dry when you go down Number 9. When you
8 first get on Number 9 there at 701 and you get to
9 the beach, the river's got a little bit of water in
10 it, but this stream -- and, sir, if I could e-mail
11 you this video, if you'd give me your e-mail, I
12 want you to go down there and look at my stream.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. SAWYER: All right. Do me a favor and state your
15 name for the reporter, just so she --

16 MR. WORLEY: Oh, she -- she knows.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Dennis Worley.

18 MS. SAWYER: Okay. All right.

19 MR. WORLEY: I -- I will e-mail the --

20 MS. SAWYER: Would anyone else like to speak tonight?
21 You want to speak again?

22 MS. VERONICA FRINK: Yes.

23 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

24 MS. VERONICA FRINK: Veronica, V-e-r-o-n-i-c-a,
25 Thompson, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n, Frink, F-r-i-n-k. I

1 also want to note to the panel, also that, in my
2 family, in my home itself, my daughter -- my oldest
3 daughter, which she's now 32, I believe, since the
4 quarry has come into our community, she has now
5 permanent breathing issues. She has major
6 allergies. Has to take medication. And all this
7 started when the quarry came. And I have videos on
8 my video camera and -- from outside where you can
9 go and see all the debris which is moving and
10 flowing. And I have one video, just I took the
11 other night, at 1:22 in the morning. What are you
12 doing at 1:22 in the morning and all this debris is
13 flowing? And I have videos, everything. So again,
14 this is a major issue as far as health.

15 Like I said, my daughter, she's had this
16 issue. She's now 32, and she is permanently
17 damaged because of that quarry. And now my
18 grandson, which now he's ten years old, and he's
19 the same. It's the same with him since he's been
20 born coming in -- coming over there. So this is a
21 major issue that we need to not allow to keep
22 going. And also, my husband had to purchase an
23 excavator machine to -- which we've been buying --
24 purchasing the coquina from the pit and putting in
25 our yard to build it back up. And in the course of

1 25 years, we've bought over probably seven loads
2 maybe. And he had to purchase a machine just to
3 keep spreading it, to keep doing it. And we had no
4 idea that we were entitled to, once a year, a free
5 load. And we've been buying this from them all
6 this time to build up our yard.

7 So again, our doorways cracked, everything you
8 can see right through. You got to level up the
9 house, get them back going. It -- it's just too
10 much. Like everybody's saying, it's too much. We
11 can't afford to keep doing these things.

12 MS. SAWYER: All right. Would anyone else like to speak
13 tonight? Please raise your hand.

14 MS. PERCILLA GREEN: I would like to say one thing. And
15 my question is, y'all have -- well, let me go to
16 her.

17 MS. SAWYER: Yep. State and spell your name, please.

18 MS. PERCILLA GREEN: My name is Percilla Green, P-e-r-c-
19 i-l-l-a, G-r-e-e-n on 382 Cedar Branch Road, Loris.
20 All right. My -- my question is this --

21 MS. SAWYER: Y'all keep it down so we can hear her
22 comments, please.

23 MS. PERCILLA GREEN: My -- I want to ask a question.
24 And the question is this: With all the water y'all
25 got and all the water that be flowing in the -- in

1 on us and the water from down there on the -- the
2 road before Conway and it's -- overflows, some of
3 this water going to overflow on us. And you're
4 talking about a -- a hole -- a hole. And after
5 that water flow in on us, it ain't no more us.
6 That's all I want to ask.

7 MS. SAWYER: Okay. Anyone else like to make a comment
8 tonight?

9 MS. GORE: I -- I would like to.

10 MS. SAWYER: Okay. State your name for the reporter,
11 please.

12 MS. GORE: My name is Tremelia Gore, T-r-e-m-e-l-i-a,
13 Gore, G-o-r-e. Yes. So I'd like to reiterate the
14 question that Brother Frink asked. So about the --
15 let's see -- the evidence. I'm sorry. I got to
16 get my notes. What specific evidence will cause
17 SCDES to deny the permit modifications? If the
18 testimony that you heard from everyone tonight
19 about the wells, the homes, the water, the blasts,
20 and the ground condition isn't enough? Can you
21 please tell the community exactly what evidence you
22 will require from us before you make your decision?
23 So I -- that was the main thing, and I would ask
24 that you not move forward with this project.

25 MS. SAWYER: Would anyone else like to comment tonight?

1 Okay. Seeing no additional speakers, the
2 comment portion of this hearing is now closed. On
3 behalf of SCDES, thank you for attending and
4 sharing your comments. All comments will be
5 reviewed and, if necessary, additional information
6 may be requested from the applicant. A decision to
7 approve or deny the permit will then be issued.

8 At that time, a summary response to comments
9 and the final decision will be sent to everyone on
10 the mailing list and we -- will be posted online.
11 If you would like to receive this notice by
12 certified mail, please submit that request in
13 writing by September 11th, 2026.

14 The time is now 8:14 p.m., and this public
15 hearing is adjourned.

16 (Whereupon, the hearing was
17 concluded at 8:14 p.m.)

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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) CERTIFICATE

Be it known that Julie Taradash took the foregoing proceeding and hereby attests:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Julie Taradash

Date: 9/10/2026

Notary public for South Carolina

My commission expires March 27, 2035

*Unless otherwise noted, this notary public administered the oath. Please refer to the transcript for any exceptions.

**For details on reading and signing, please refer to the transcript.