

State of South Carolina )  
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County of Edgefield )  
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South Carolina )  
Department of )  
Environmental Services )  
 )  
In Re: )  
Luck Edgefield Quarry )  
Mine Permit Application )  
 )  
 )  
 )

Transcript  
of  
Public Hearing

Date: August 8, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Merriwether Elementary School, 565  
Springhaven Drive, North Augusta, South Carolina

Reported by  
Breanna Sharper

APPEARANCES

Hearing Officer: Catherine Sawyer

SCDES Officials Present: Jeremy Eddy  
Mareesa Singleton

Speakers from the public: Calvin Henderson  
Katie Kosloski, Luck Stone Corporation

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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay. Good evening once again.

The time is now 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 8th, 2024, and this public hearing will now begin.

This public hearing is being held by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, also known as SCDES, to accept comments and supporting information on the application submitted by Luck Stone Corporation to mine granite at a site located on Woodlawn Road in Edgefield County, approximately 6.8 miles southeast of Clarks Hill, South Carolina.

As a formal proceeding, the purpose of this hearing is to accept oral comments from the audience and record them for the official record. Therefore, SCDES staff will not be responding to questions or comments during the hearing. A written transcript will be prepared by the certified court reporter. The transcript will serve as the official record of this public hearing and will be posted on the Department's webpage when available. The webpage address is [des.sc.gov/luckstoneedgefield](https://des.sc.gov/luckstoneedgefield). And it will be updated with information as it becomes available.

Again, my name is Catherine Sawyer, and I will serve as your hearing officer tonight. Thank you

1 for taking the time to be here for this important  
2 step in SCDES's permitting process. Before I go  
3 over how we will proceed, there are a couple of  
4 items that I would like to address:

5 First, I would ask that you please silence  
6 your cell phones or other electronic devices so  
7 that others are not disturbed during this hearing.

8 Next, if you have not already done so, I  
9 encourage each of you to sign the attendance sheet  
10 located at the sign-in table so that we have a  
11 complete record of everyone here tonight. We have  
12 asked for your mailing or e-mail address on the  
13 sign-in sheet so that we know how to notify you of  
14 future information regarding the proposed quarry.

15 The permitting process at SCDES begins when an  
16 application is received for one or more  
17 environmental permits. During this process, an  
18 applicant must show that his proposed operation can  
19 comply with all applicable state and federal  
20 regulations. These regulations have been written  
21 to ensure that human health and the environment are  
22 protected. In addition to reviewing the  
23 application, the Department's role is to write and,  
24 if issued, enforce permits that meet the  
25 requirements of the regulations.

1           You also have a role in SCDES's permitting  
2           process. That's what brings us here tonight, to  
3           receive your comments formally for the record.  
4           Although a final permit decision cannot be made  
5           based on a vote or how many people say the same  
6           thing, your comments are important and may  
7           influence the terms and conditions written in the  
8           permit if one is issued. Comments and concerns  
9           given here tonight, as well as those submitted in  
10          writing by the end of the public comment period,  
11          are welcomed and encouraged.

12           A presentation on the proposed mine and  
13          SCDES's permitting processes was provided by Jeremy  
14          Eddy and Mareesa Singleton during the meeting held  
15          at 6 p.m. This presentation will be made available  
16          on our webpage before the end of the public comment  
17          period.

18           We will now move on to the order in which we  
19          will proceed with this hearing. A brief statement  
20          about the proposed mine will be read for the record  
21          by Jeremy Eddy, and an overview of the draft air  
22          permit will be Mareesa Singleton. I will then  
23          begin the public comment portion of the evening by  
24          calling on those of you who indicated on the sign-  
25          in sheet that you would like to make a comment. If

1           you have decided that you no longer wish to comment  
2           when you are called upon, you may decline at that  
3           time. Once everyone has had a chance to speak, I  
4           will ask if anyone else in attendance would like to  
5           make a comment. After all comments have been  
6           heard, I will make closing remarks and the public  
7           hearing will be adjourned.

8                     For everyone to have a fair and equal  
9           opportunity to participate tonight and to ensure  
10          that we proceed in a timely and effective manner,  
11          the following four guidelines have been  
12          established:

13                    First, there will be no questions answered  
14          during the public hearing.

15                    Second, your comment should not go over three  
16          minutes for individual or five minutes for elected  
17          officials and those speaking on behalf of an  
18          organized group. I will remind you if you do not  
19          conclude your comments in that time. If you're  
20          unable to present all your comments within the  
21          allotted time, please remember that you may submit  
22          them to SCDES in writing by the close of the public  
23          comment period.

24                    Third, please be respectful towards anyone  
25          speaking here tonight. You each have a unique and

1           valued perspective. No one comment is considered  
2           more important than another. And please do not  
3           interrupt or ask other participants to respond to  
4           your comments.

5                       Should any comments or actions begin to  
6           move away from the intent of this hearing, I may  
7           ask the speaker to limit their statements and be  
8           seated.

9                       I will now call on Jeremy Eddy to read a brief  
10          statement about the mine operating permit  
11          application. Okay.

12   MR. EDDY: On March 21st, 2024, Luck Stone Corporation  
13          submitted a mine operating permit application to  
14          mine granite in Edgefield County. The total  
15          permitted area is proposed to be 424 1/2 acres,  
16          consisting of 344 1/2 acres of affected area, 74.1  
17          acres of buffer, and 5.9 acres of future reserves.  
18          The reclamation plan proposes to reclaim this site  
19          to a pond or lake and grasslands.

20   HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, Jeremy. Now we'll  
21          call on Mareesa Singleton to read a brief statement  
22          about the draft air permit. Mareesa?

23   MS. SINGLETON: Luck Stone Corporation, Luck Edgefield,  
24          has applied to the Department for an air  
25          construction permit to install and operate a new

1           aggregate mine processing plant. A draft permit  
2           and draft statement of basis has been written  
3           outlining the proposed project and applicable  
4           regulations. This permit will enable the facility  
5           to construct and operate in compliance with state  
6           and federal air quality regulations. The permit  
7           includes federally enforceable facility-wide limits  
8           to remain below major source thresholds for both  
9           the Title V operating permit and the prevention of  
10          significant deterioration regulations.

11       HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, Mareesa. As we  
12          transition to the comment portion of the public  
13          hearing, I would like reiterate that SCDES staff  
14          are here to listen to your comments. Answers or  
15          responses to questions will not be provided  
16          tonight. All comments made during this hearing are  
17          being recorded. If you are unable to complete your  
18          comments within the three-minute allotted time, you  
19          may submit them in writing through the end of the  
20          public comment period on August 23rd, 2024.

21                 We will now hear from those of you who  
22          indicated on the sign-in sheet that you would like  
23          to make a comment. You will be called upon in  
24          random order. Please clearly state and spell your  
25          name for the court reporter before you begin



1 speaking. And bear with me if misspeak on  
2 someone's name, but first up is Calvin Henderson.  
3 Would you still like to speak, Calvin?

4 MR. HENDERSON: All right. Good evening, ladies and  
5 gentlemen. Hi. My name is Calvin Henderson,  
6 C-a-l-v-i-n, H-e-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I was sure that  
7 perhaps y'all would call Mr. Moody, Mr. Jerry, or  
8 Mr. Joey over there first. I didn't think I would  
9 be first up.

10 I'm here to tell you just a couple of things  
11 real quickly about what Luck Stone has been doing  
12 in the Edgefield County area that you probably  
13 haven't heard about. I know you hear about the  
14 quarry all the time; you hear about that. I was  
15 thinking there would be a few more people here  
16 tonight. I was at the May 5th -- was it May? --  
17 the May meeting, and there was quite a bit of  
18 interest then. So when I was coming tonight and I  
19 see just a few, you know, less people here, I'm  
20 thinking that maybe more people have got to inform  
21 -- more -- maybe the information that they're  
22 putting out is getting -- is reaching more people,  
23 and perhaps maybe the big bold quarry that was  
24 coming is not such a bad idea after all.

25 What I'd like to say is they have come in.

1           They have very much tried to integrate themselves  
2           within the community. They're constantly asking,  
3           "What can we do? What -- you know, how can we  
4           help? How can we get out there? How could we  
5           become part of the community?" That -- we had the  
6           special needs prom in May. They were a big part of  
7           that. So we thank you for that. That was in  
8           Edgefield at the NWTf Palmetto Shooting Complex.  
9           They were very, very instrumental in -- in making  
10          sure that they were a big part in that. The  
11          Edgefield Peach Festival came along. They were  
12          there to put out tons of information. They had two  
13          tents there. They want everybody to hear about it.  
14          They want everybody to ask questions. They want  
15          you to -- to -- to be interested in what's going on  
16          there.

17                 And I think one of the reasons for that, too,  
18                 is a lot of times we hear something on social  
19                 media. And, of course, we don't bother to fact-  
20                 check it. We just pass it on. We share; we share  
21                 it. If it's bad and it sounds good, we share it  
22                 three times faster. If it's -- if it's -- sounds  
23                 like it's going to be good for the community,  
24                 sometimes people don't share it quite as fast. But  
25                 if it's something negative, God, does it go out

1           like wildfire.

2                   So I -- I'd just like to say that I think with  
3           the information that they're putting out and -- and  
4           you -- I know this is DHEC here tonight that's  
5           doing this -- I think it was informative to the  
6           community. They are already asking, "What can we  
7           do," you know, "in Edgefield County?" not Edgefield  
8           Town, but they -- the entire county. They want to  
9           be vested in this community. They don't just want  
10          to be an overnight company that just shows up and,  
11          you know, throws up a couple of signs, dig a rock  
12          quarry here, and then they're "poof" gone. I  
13          think, you know, they're -- they're here for the  
14          long haul. They're here for just, you know, the --  
15          the long term. I think they're here to help make  
16          the community better.

17                   And, you know, I also -- with another quarry  
18          coming around, we only have one in town now. And I  
19          think there's one right across the -- over on River  
20          Watch, on -- is it Marietta? Am I saying that  
21          correctly?

22                   So I think, you know, of course, bringing  
23          another quarry in, we -- we use a ton of aggregate  
24          here in South Carolina. So we're talking about we  
25          want better roads, you know. If we can bring the

1 cost down of the -- the material -- the raw  
2 materials to get the roads done, then perhaps we  
3 can get them done faster and more of them done.  
4 Because if y'all -- y'all have rode on South  
5 Carolina roads before, right? Yeah, we got a few  
6 bumpy roads I've seen.

7 So I -- again, I think they're -- they're not  
8 looking at it from the quarry side. I'm looking at  
9 it from the investment into the community, you  
10 know, the community side of it. I think, you know,  
11 they're going to want to -- if we got some  
12 playgrounds and they're not up to standards or we  
13 don't have enough, I think they're ready to invest.  
14 Say, "Hey, you know, let's -- let's get more out  
15 there," you know. And they're not so big about  
16 putting the Luck Stone name on it. They just want  
17 it to be a beautiful community. They want it to be  
18 a welcoming community. We're a quaint little town,  
19 and we've got a lot to offer. But sometimes you  
20 only hear about the negative versus -- proceeds the  
21 -- the positive that we have to offer. And that's  
22 just kind of my take on it.

23 Thank y'all for giving me -- I hope I stayed  
24 under three minutes. Thank you very much.

25 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, Mr. Henderson. All

1 right. The next person is Peggy Haddaway. Would  
2 you still like to speak tonight, Ms. Haddaway? No?  
3 Okay.

4 Next up is Chris Hoffman? Chris, would you  
5 like to speak?

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Calvin said it all.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. Maybe that's why  
8 Calvin got to go first. All right.

9 MR. HENDERSON: That was it.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Amy Massey or Kimberly Horn?  
11 Amy Massey? Kimberly Horn?

12 MS. HORN: No thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: No? Okay. Hammond Armstrong,  
14 would you still like to speak tonight?

15 MR. ARMSTRONG: No.

16 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: No? Okay. Brayden Rutland?

17 MR. RUTLAND: No thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: No? Darn. How about Allen  
19 Hudson?

20 MR. HUDSON: I already shared what I'm going to say.

21 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay.

22 MR. HUDSON: I appreciate it.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Well, Joey Smith? No?

24 MR. SMITH: Calvin said it all.

25 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Calvin, darn. All right,

1 Calvin. How about Katie Kosloski? Would you like  
2 to speak tonight?

3 MS. KOSLOSKI: Yes, ma'am.

4 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay.

5 MS. KOSLOSKI: I appreciate it. My name is Katie  
6 Kosloski, K-a-t-i-e K-o-s-l-o-s-k-i. I just wanted  
7 to express Luck Stone's sincere appreciation for  
8 DHEC hosting this forum tonight, and also all the  
9 folks in attendance who shared comments and  
10 questions. I wanted to share my phone number in  
11 case there are further questions or an interest in  
12 getting together to learn more about our project  
13 off of Woodlawn Road. My phone number is (804)400-  
14 2591. And my e-mail address is  
15 kkosloski@luckcompanies.com.

16 Luck is very, very excited to be a hopeful  
17 part of the Edgefield community for years to come,  
18 and will vow to be an active, engaged, and  
19 responsible member of this community if we're  
20 allowed. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. That concludes  
22 everyone who signed up to make a comment. If you  
23 would like to speak now and did not sign up, please  
24 raise your hand. All right. I think I've called  
25 on everyone who wished to make a comment tonight.

1 So the comment portion of tonight's public hearing  
2 is concluded. On behalf of the South Carolina  
3 Department of Environmental Services, I would like  
4 to thank everyone for coming out here tonight and  
5 giving us your comments. Please note once again  
6 that written comments may be submitted to SCDES  
7 through August 23rd, 2024. All written comments  
8 received on or before this date will be considered  
9 in SCDES's decision making process.

10 If you have questions about submitting written  
11 comments after tonight, please see a staff member  
12 before you leave. SCDES's Bureau of Land and Waste  
13 Management will review and consider all comments  
14 received and may request additional information  
15 from the applicant if necessary. A decision will  
16 then be made to approve or deny the mine permit  
17 application and the mine operating permit.

18 Once a final decision is made, SCDES will  
19 provide a summary response to all comments  
20 received. The permit decision and summary of  
21 response will be provided to everyone who signed in  
22 here tonight, as well as those who submitted  
23 written comments during the public comment period.  
24 The final permit decision and summary response will  
25 also be posted on our webpage. You will receive

1 notification of SCDES's permit decision by standard  
2 US mail or by e-mail. If you wish to be notified  
3 by -- of SCDES's final decision by certified mail  
4 instead, please make your request known in writing  
5 no later than August 23rd, 2024. If you have  
6 questions or if you're interested in discussing  
7 specific aspects of the proposed mine, please reach  
8 out to any of our staff members. We will be happy  
9 to begin a conversation with you.

10 Finally, you should -- what? We didn't do  
11 that. We're going to skip that.

12 On behalf of the South Carolina Department of  
13 Environmental Services, thank you again for your  
14 attendance and comments this evening. The time is  
15 now 7:16 p.m. and the public hearing is officially  
16 adjourned.

17 (Whereupon, at 7:16\* p.m. the  
18 hearing in the above-entitled matter  
19 was concluded.)

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

23 (\*\*Certificate accompanies sealed original  
24 only.)

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