

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF YORK

	)	
	)	
	)	Transcript
In Re: Three Air Construction	)	
Permits for New-Indy Catawba	)	of
LLC, also known as New-Indy	)	Public Hearing
	)	
	)	
	)	

Date: June 13, 2024

Time: 6:05 p.m.

Location: York Technical College  
Baxter M. Hood Center  
375 Anderson Road South  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reported by:  
Darlene Pastel, CVR-CM

APPEARANCES

DHEC Officials Present: Monica Taylor, Hearing Officer  
Katharine Buckner, Permit Writer

DHEC Staff in Attendance: Rhonda Thompson - Chief,  
Bureau of Air Quality; Steve McCaslin - Director, Air  
Permitting Division; Christopher Hardee - Manager, Wood  
and Surface Coating Permit Section

Speakers from the Public:

Glenn Trutner  
David Koyle  
Betty Rankin  
Jackie Baker

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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. We'll just give a few more moments for those that may be coming in here shortly. And we'll get started maybe about five after 6:00.

Okay. We are about six minutes after, so we'll go ahead and get started. Welcome everyone. Good evening.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Good evening.

HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: The time is now 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024. And the public hearing regarding the three air construction permits for New-Indy Catawba LLC, also known as New-Indy, is called to order. For the record, the facility's location is at 5300 Cureton Ferry Road in Catawba, here in York County.

My name is Monica Taylor, and I'm the public participation coordinator in the Bureau of Air Quality. Tonight I will serve as the hearing officer. On behalf of DHEC, thank you for taking the time to join us this evening.

Before I go over how we will proceed, there's just a few items that I would like to make mention of. First, I would like to ask that you please silence your cell phones or other electronic

1 devices so that others are not disturbed during the  
2 hearing. Second, please familiarize yourself with  
3 the exits in case of emergency. As I was coming  
4 in, I did notice where the restrooms were, and I  
5 know that's sometimes important. So we do have the  
6 restrooms right outside the door. The men's will  
7 be to my left and the women's to my right.

8 Third, if you have not already done so, I  
9 encourage you to sign the attendance sheet located  
10 at the sign-in table. We have asked for your email  
11 and mailing address on the sign-in sheet so that we  
12 can notify you of future information regarding  
13 New-Indy.

14 I would like to also point out our court  
15 reporter, seated up front. She will record the  
16 comments you make tonight and prepare a written  
17 transcript. The transcript will serve as the  
18 official record of this public hearing.

19 Please keep in mind a decision to grant or  
20 to deny these permits have not yet been made and  
21 will not be made here tonight. The purpose of this  
22 hearing is for you to provide your comments to be  
23 considered for the final permit decision as we make  
24 that. These draft permits have been written to  
25 demonstrate how New-Indy intends to construct and

1 operate in compliance with state and federal air  
2 quality regulations. These regulations are in  
3 place to safeguard human health and ensure that air  
4 quality standards are upheld.

5 Your input is an important part of the  
6 permitting process, so we encourage you to formally  
7 express your opinions and your comments and  
8 concerns for the record. The information you  
9 provide will be carefully reviewed and may offer  
10 DHEC staff additional factors to consider as they  
11 make a final decision on the three permits. If you  
12 choose not to speak tonight, you may submit your  
13 comments in writing until Thursday, June 20, 2024.

14 So that this hearing moves forward in an  
15 efficient and timely manner, the following  
16 guidelines have been established: There will be no  
17 questions or answers during or after a comment.

18 All comments will be made from the  
19 microphones up front. We have one here and one  
20 here as well.

21 So that everyone has the opportunity to  
22 speak, your comments should not go over three  
23 minutes, and the time may not be transferred to  
24 another speaker. Our staff member in the front row  
25 will remind you when you have a minute left and

1           again when you have 30 seconds remaining. If you  
2           are unable to present your comments within the  
3           three minutes or do not wish to speak at the  
4           hearing, please remember you may submit your  
5           comments in writing to DHEC until Thursday,  
6           June 20, 2024, and they will be entered into the  
7           record just as the comments made here tonight.

8                       Each person's input is important to us.  
9           Please be respectful of those presenting  
10          information or making comments and follow the time  
11          limit that has been set. Asking the audience, DHEC  
12          staff, or New-Indy representatives to respond to  
13          any comments or answer any question is not  
14          appropriate for this hearing. We would also like  
15          to advise you that approval or denial of the permit  
16          will not be based on how many votes of persons  
17          saying the same thing.

18                      If any comments or actions begin to move  
19          away from the intent of this hearing, I may ask the  
20          speaker to conclude their statement and be seated.  
21          While DHEC understands that there is a variety of  
22          concerns, the focus of this hearing is on the  
23          technical merit of the three air permits.

24                      This hearing will proceed in the following  
25          order: First, Katharine Buckner will give a

1 presentation on the three draft air permits.

2 Second, I will randomly call on those who have  
3 indicated at the sign-in that they would like to  
4 make a comment. If you have decided that you no  
5 longer wish to make a comment when I call on you,  
6 you can decline at that time.

7 Third, anyone who has decided during the  
8 course of this meeting that you would like to make  
9 a comment but did not indicate at sign-in, you will  
10 be given a chance to do so. We will call upon you  
11 at the end of the hearing at random by a show of  
12 your hand raised. Please remember that this time  
13 will only be for those who have not yet spoken.

14 Now I call on Katharine of the Bureau of Air  
15 Quality to give her presentation.

16 MS. BUCKNER: Good evening. My name is  
17 Katharine Buckner. I am the permit writer for the  
18 New-Indy Catawba pulp and paper mill. I have over  
19 25 years of experience as a permit writer.

20 The following acronyms are used in tonight's  
21 presentation: EPA means US Environmental  
22 Protection Agency. DHEC is South Carolina  
23 Department of Health and Environmental Control.  
24 H2S means hydrogen sulfide. PM means particulate  
25 matter. PM10 means particulate matter less than

1           10 microns. PM2.5 means particulate matter less  
2           than 2.5 microns. TPY stands for tons per year.

3                   LVHC stands for low volume, high  
4           concentration. TRS means total reduced sulfur.  
5           SRL is stripper rectified liquid. NOx means oxides  
6           of nitrogen. SO2 is sulfur dioxide. CO is carbon  
7           monoxide. And ppm is parts per million.

8                   New-Indy has applied for three construction  
9           permits. One permit incorporates the limits and  
10          requirements of the Environmental Protection  
11          Agency's (EPA) consent decree in Civil Case Number  
12          21-CV-02053-SAL. This consent decree was approved  
13          by and entered into before the US District Court  
14          for the District of South Carolina on November 16,  
15          2022, and is referred to as EPA's consent order --  
16          sorry -- consent decree hereafter.

17                   Another permit allows New-Indy to install  
18          and operate a new dry ash handling system. The new  
19          ash handling system is being installed as one of  
20          the means by which the facility will discontinue  
21          the practice of adding solids to the clarifier as  
22          required by the EPA consent decree.

23                   A separate permit allows the installation of  
24          a new foul condensate stripper and associated  
25          equipment required by the South Carolina DHEC



1 consent order to create undesirable levels of air  
2 contaminants. This consent order was signed on  
3 November 23, 2022, and is hereafter referred to as  
4 the DHEC consent order.

5 Draft permits and statements of basis have  
6 been written for each of these projects and  
7 currently are on notice for greater than the  
8 required 30 days. The public notice comment period  
9 will close June 30, 2024.

10 The draft construction permit, CP-50000051,  
11 incorporates the limits and requirements specified  
12 by the EPA consent decree into a federally  
13 enforceable permit. These limits and requirements  
14 include:

15 Operate the stripper at all times when  
16 unbleached kraft pulp is produced and foul  
17 condensate is generated other than periods of  
18 scheduled and unscheduled downtime.

19 The stripper downtime shall not exceed 576  
20 hours in the first year and 460 hours annually  
21 thereafter. Please note, the first year has  
22 passed, and the downtime is currently limited to  
23 460 hours per the EPA consent decree.

24 Maintain and operate a system to chemically  
25 treat the unstripped foul condensate before it is

1 discharged into the aeration stabilization basin.

2 Maintain and operate the continuous hydrogen  
3 sulfide, also referred to as H<sub>2</sub>S, fence-line  
4 monitors at three locations.

5 Maintain and operate the wastewater  
6 treatment system in a manner consistent with safety  
7 and good wastewater treatment and air pollution  
8 control practices with a goal of minimizing  
9 emissions of H<sub>2</sub>S at the fence line.

10 Maintain and operate the post aeration tank  
11 cover and carbon filtration system and maintain and  
12 operate a containment system to prevent any  
13 uncontrolled black liquor overflows or releases  
14 from reaching the aeration stabilization basin.

15 The draft construction permit, CP-50000175,  
16 authorizes the installation of a new dry ash  
17 handling system. The new ash handling system is  
18 one of the means that will be used by the facility  
19 to meet the EPA consent decree requirement to  
20 discontinue the practice of adding solids to the  
21 clarifier.

22 To prevent the installation of the dry ash  
23 handling system from resulting in a major  
24 modification under prevention of significant  
25 deterioration regulations, synthetic minor limits

1           were taken, which are federally enforceable limits  
2           on the amount of pollutants that can be emitted.  
3           The permit limits include -- the permit includes  
4           limits of: Less than 25 tons per year for  
5           particulate matter, also referred to as PM; less  
6           than 15 tons per year for particulate matter less  
7           than 10 microns, also referred to as PM10; and less  
8           than 10 tons per year for particulate matter less  
9           than 2.5 microns, and referred to as PM2.5.

10                   The permit also includes requirements for  
11           associated monitoring, record-keeping, and  
12           reporting to ensure compliance with the synthetic  
13           minor limits.

14                   The draft construction permit, CP-50000061,  
15           authorizes new equipment and changes as required by  
16           the DHEC consent order. The proposed changes are:

17                   Installation, maintenance, and operation of  
18           a new low pressure steam, foul condensate stripper.  
19           Hereafter, this will be referred to as the new  
20           stripper system.

21                   Modifications to the Number 3 recovery  
22           furnace to combust gases collected in the low  
23           volume, high concentration collection system, also  
24           referred to as the LVHC system.

25                   Optimization, maintenance, and operation of

1 the existing condensate stripper system as a backup  
2 to the new stripper system, and changes to the foul  
3 condensate treatment scenarios.

4 The foul condensates generated at the site  
5 will be treated by one of the following scenarios:  
6 In the new stripper system, in the backup existing  
7 stripper system, or chemical treatment when no  
8 stripper is online. The foul condensates will be  
9 controlled at all times using one of these  
10 treatment scenarios.

11 The new stripper system includes the  
12 following equipment:

13 The steam stripper, which will strip out  
14 methanol and total reduced sulfur, also referred to  
15 as TRS, from the foul condensate liquid entering  
16 the stripper.

17 The condenser, which will condense the gases  
18 from the stripper into a liquid referred to as SRL,  
19 stripper rectified liquid, that contains methanol.

20 The stripper feed tank, a tank that feeds  
21 foul condensates to the stripper, and an SRL  
22 storage tank.

23 The liquid that leaves the stripper is  
24 referred to as cleaned condensate.

25 The new stripper is designed to process all

1 the pulping process condensates, also known as foul  
2 condensates. The new stripper will primarily be  
3 operated with the new condenser where methanol is  
4 condensed from the stripper gases into SRL. The  
5 SRL will be combusted with black liquor in either  
6 of the two recovery furnaces.

7 LVHC gases from the condenser, the two new  
8 tanks, and other existing LVHC gases will be  
9 combusted in the Number 3 recovery furnace only.  
10 This furnace will be modified to combust these  
11 gases. The combination boilers will serve as a  
12 backup control when the Number 3 recovery furnace  
13 is unable to receive these LVHC gases. An existing  
14 caustic scrubber will be used to remove about  
15 50 percent of the sulfur prior to combustion of the  
16 LVHC gases in the boilers.

17 There may be times when the new condenser  
18 system is not operating. During these times, gases  
19 from the stripper will be combusted in the new --  
20 sorry -- in either of the combination boilers.

21 Cleaned condensate from the new stripper  
22 will be recycled to wash the pulp in the Brownstock  
23 washers or sent to the wastewater treatment plant.

24 The backup existing stripper. There may be  
25 times when the new stripper system will not be

1 operational. The foul condensate will be treated  
2 in the backup existing stripper. Gases from the  
3 backup stripper will be combusted in either of the  
4 combination boilers.

5 There are two operating modes for the backup  
6 stripper: Methanol mode; TRS mode.

7 The backup stripper - methanol mode. This  
8 mode is the current required operation of the  
9 backup stripper prior to the installation and  
10 operation of the new stripper. In this mode, the  
11 backup stripper treats a portion of the foul  
12 condensates. The foul condensates not treated in  
13 the backup stripper are treated with hydrogen  
14 peroxide to chemically oxidize the H<sub>2</sub>S into either  
15 elemental sulfur or sulfate and then sent to the  
16 aeration stabilization basin through the hardpipe  
17 for further methanol treatment.

18 The gases from the stripper are combusted in  
19 either of the combination boilers. Cleaned  
20 condensates are recycled to the Brownstock (or  
21 pulp) washers or sent to the wastewater treatment  
22 system.

23 The backup stripper in TRS mode. In this  
24 mode, all of the foul condensate is treated in the  
25 backup stripper for TRS removal and partial removal

1 of methanol. The remaining methanol and the  
2 stripped condensates will be treated in the  
3 aeration stabilization basin. Gases from the  
4 stripper will be combusted in either of the  
5 combination boilers.

6 No stripper online. That means both  
7 strippers are not operating. Stripper downtime  
8 when no stripper is operating is limited by the EPA  
9 consent decree permit and is being incorporated  
10 into a federally enforceable permit through draft  
11 construction permit CP-50000051.

12 Downtime shall not exceed 576 hours in the  
13 first year and 460 hours annually thereafter. The  
14 first year is already passed; therefore, the time  
15 when no stripper is operating shall not exceed 460  
16 hours per year.

17 The foul condensate will be treated with  
18 hydrogen peroxide to chemically oxidize the H<sub>2</sub>S  
19 into either elemental sulfur or sulfate then sent  
20 to the aeration stabilization basin through the  
21 hardpipe.

22 The new stripper will decrease actual  
23 emissions of H<sub>2</sub>S and TRS. The emission changes  
24 shown in the public notice are from a regulatory  
25 analysis of New-Indy's actual emissions in their

1 current configuration, or baseline emissions,  
2 compared to the proposed future configuration at a  
3 projected maximum production rate.

4 This facility currently has an allowed  
5 production rate of 1,825 air-dried tons per day  
6 under its existing permits. This allowed  
7 production rate will not change under the new draft  
8 construction permits. To demonstrate the project  
9 would not meet the regulatory threshold of a major  
10 modification, New-Indy provided emission estimates  
11 at a projected maximum production rate of 2,700  
12 air-dried tons per day, compared to their baseline  
13 production rate of 1,365 air-dried tons per day.

14 When making an apples-to-apples comparison  
15 of the facility's current configuration to its  
16 proposed configuration at its allowed production  
17 rate of 1,825 air-dried tons per day, H2S is  
18 reduced by 22 percent and TRS is reduced by  
19 34 percent. Emissions of certain other pollutants  
20 must increase to achieve these reductions.

21 Overall, oxides of nitrogen emissions, also  
22 referred to as NOx, are decreasing. While  
23 increased fuel burning generates more NOx, the  
24 change to burning methanol and the new condenser  
25 gases instead of stripper off-gases provides a much



1 larger decrease.

2 Overall, sulfur dioxide emissions, also  
3 referred to as SO<sub>2</sub>, are also decreasing. Some  
4 sources generate more SO<sub>2</sub> from fuel burning. But  
5 there is a larger decrease from not burning the  
6 stripper off-gases and routing the new condenser  
7 gases with the condensed methanol to the recovery  
8 furnace. The complex chemistry inside the recovery  
9 furnace works to keep the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from  
10 forming.

11 Particulate and lead emissions are  
12 increasing due to the necessary increase in fuel  
13 burning to meet the higher steam demand for the  
14 increased uptime requirement from the strippers.  
15 The strippers must be on and operating for 8,300  
16 hours per year compared to the baseline value of  
17 8,004 hours.

18 Carbon monoxide emissions, also referred to  
19 CO, are also increasing due to the additional steam  
20 demand for the strippers. CO generation per unit  
21 of production is almost the same for combusting the  
22 stripper off-gases or the new condenser gases.

23 One last note: The department will be  
24 making a correction to one of the conditions  
25 appearing in the draft construction permit,

1 CP-50000061, as placed on public notice.

2 Condition B.17 contains the TRS limit  
3 assigned by Standard Number 4 for the Number 2  
4 recovery furnace. The draft construction permit  
5 currently references a limit of 5 parts per  
6 million, also referred to as ppm. The Number 2  
7 recovery furnace is an old design furnace as  
8 specified in the regulation and the correct limit  
9 is 20 ppm. This limit is straightforward from the  
10 regulation and is not determined on a case-by-case  
11 basis.

12 The correct limit was identified in the  
13 statement of basis placed on public notice. The  
14 limit will be corrected in the construction permit.

15 And if you would like to make comments on  
16 the draft construction permits presented, verbal  
17 comments will be taken tonight at the conclusion of  
18 this presentation or there are several options to  
19 submit written comments using the addresses shown.  
20 The preferred way to submit written comments is  
21 through the e-permitting portal. Comments can be  
22 sent through email to the email address, or  
23 comments can be sent through the United States  
24 Postal Service to the mailing address.

25 This presentation will be made available on

1 South Carolina DHEC's New-Indy Catawba webpage in  
2 the next couple of days at the address shown.  
3 Handouts with the addresses are available at  
4 sign-in. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you,  
6 Katharine.

7 Okay. I want to make just one mention. I  
8 believe in the presentation Katharine may have  
9 mentioned that we will be accepting comments. I  
10 want to clarify that date until we will be  
11 receiving comments into our office is June 20.  
12 That date is again June 20, 2024.

13 We will now hear from those of you who have  
14 indicated at sign-in that you would like to make  
15 comments. You will be called upon in random order.  
16 Please clearly state your first and last names for  
17 the court reporter.

18 If you have written -- if you have a written  
19 copy of your comments that you don't mind leaving  
20 with us, please do so. You may hand your written  
21 comments to someone out front or you may leave them  
22 on the table up front as well.

23 All right. I will start with --  
24 Glenn Turner?

25 MR. TRUTNER: Close.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: I thought I would  
2 not get that correct, but I definitely thought I'd  
3 give it a try.

4 MR. TRUTNER: Thank you.

5 Glenn Trutner. Thank you for having this  
6 hearing and going through the details of it there.  
7 I just have a few things. I know it's not supposed  
8 to be a question-and-answer, so I'll try to -- try  
9 to put this in the form of like -- not questions.  
10 But it is going to be -- you know, in the details  
11 provided -- will be extremely important to know who  
12 is going to be supervising and measuring, that  
13 these are -- these things are done properly and are  
14 not just simply checked off a list as such things  
15 are done in the past by the -- by New-Indy. It has  
16 to be third party, not a consultant who was hired  
17 by them obviously. Whether that's DHEC or somebody  
18 else. I hope -- but that provision has been taken  
19 into account and do not underemphasize the need for  
20 that.

21 Because some of the things that are up there  
22 are -- in the document it talks about 90 percent  
23 uptime with the new stripper. That's 9 out of 10  
24 days, which means once every week and a half they  
25 can have a day without a stripper on. Now, they

1 can have a backup stripper, but that's been shown  
2 over the last four years to be completely  
3 inadequate to handle their production plans. So if  
4 every week and a half we're going to be having the  
5 same type of issues that we had and regardless how  
6 improved the new stripper makes things, I'm not  
7 sure that's a good thing. And I would encourage --  
8 without asking a question, I would certainly  
9 encourage a little bit more digging on that to find  
10 out why, if that is. Because if you can only get  
11 90 percent out of this brand-new technology, maybe  
12 there's a different technology that they can input.  
13 Just a comment.

14 I saw your mention of the monitors, the  
15 fence-line monitors. Those monitors had only been  
16 set to look for H2S and not any of the other gases  
17 that were being listed on your release. And I  
18 would encourage that a requirement be put in place  
19 that those monitors -- or additional monitors be  
20 put to look for the other gases and that they be  
21 calibrated at a reasonable level. Right now those  
22 monitors are -- New-Indy will probably tell you on  
23 their (inaudible) locations. There is no --  
24 nothing comes out. They all show zero. And the  
25 reason they all show zero is because they were

1 calibrated at 70 parts per billion. And if it ever  
2 reached 70 parts per billion, we'd all be in the  
3 hospital. Typically, the smells and the toxic  
4 releases are noticeable around 4 parts per billion.  
5 And so if they calibrated those monitors around 5  
6 parts per billion it might actually show you some  
7 real numbers instead of a straight line.

8 And not lastly, but lastly in 30 seconds,  
9 New-Indy still has an increased production filing,  
10 setting aside. It's pending. And if this  
11 equipment will handle what they're doing now, what  
12 happens when they decide to increase production and  
13 that filing is eventually acted upon or another  
14 filing is made to increase it even further?

15 Are they going to be required to put a new  
16 steam stripper in and do everything else to now  
17 meet that? Or are we just going to be back in the  
18 same situation that we are today? Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. I'll  
20 now call on David Koyle. Could you make sure that  
21 you -- these microphones are very sensitive. So  
22 you may have to speak closely to the microphone  
23 just to make sure we're picking up all your audio.

24 And, again, if you have these comments in  
25 writing, and even if you have made your comments

1 here tonight, you can still submit them to us in  
2 writing in the ways that we indicated during the  
3 presentation.

4 MR. KOYLE: Thank you. Some of my  
5 background is -- I was recently retired a couple of  
6 years ago from Wayne State University and College  
7 of Engineering in Detroit. Before that, I was  
8 president of a company called Diochem USA. It was  
9 a dioxin inhibition technology. It was back in the  
10 '90s.

11 I was disappointed to hear about, you know,  
12 Boiler Number 3 and the combustion of gases and the  
13 fact that you had to increase the capacity of  
14 fuels. Which I'd like to know, because (inaudible)  
15 I've heard that in fuels that you have burning in  
16 the boilers consist of some of the most toxic gases  
17 that they're trying to destroy as well as shredded  
18 rubber, tires, tree slash -- residue from the tree,  
19 and bumper oil. This is what I've seen in reports  
20 in the past. They're very close, you know, on  
21 this. They don't really talk about it.

22 However, the ash technology -- I'd like to  
23 do a contrast and comparison. In Europe a lot of  
24 ash is considered hazardous, and it is fixated into  
25 cement and taken to a hazardous landfill. Here, I

1 don't think that happens. I'd also like to talk --  
2 and I'm sorry. I'm jumping around, but there's not  
3 enough time really. But we should have stacks on  
4 the monitor. The stacks that they have in  
5 Europe -- and I've been there and my license is  
6 (inaudible) technology, so I know a lot about  
7 dioxins.

8 In Europe, in Lucerne, Switzerland, at a  
9 plant downtown on the lake, they have a stack  
10 monitor which is made by Zeiss, which fires a laser  
11 beam a thousand times a minute across this flume  
12 gas. And from there they control things in the  
13 control room, in the boiler room, to inject various  
14 inhibitors to knock out the NOx and the SOx, et  
15 cetera, et cetera, including dioxins and furans.

16 It is much more advanced. The European  
17 requirements are twice as strict as the American  
18 requirements. If they run over their compliances  
19 within 20 minutes in any eight-hour shift, they  
20 fine -- they fine the manager on duty. And all  
21 that data is actually sent to Berlin or Zürich.

22 And also they have an app on that stack so  
23 people can actually see what's coming out at any  
24 given moment in real-time.

25 These technologies are all available as of



1           30 years ago. I would highly recommend you get on  
2           a plane to Switzerland or to Germany -- I'm happy  
3           to, you know, point you in the right direction.  
4           Bring one of the DHEC reps and bring one of the  
5           New-Indy reps. Because they need to see this  
6           technology.

7                     The EPA has been -- you know, said we're  
8           going to do best available control technology. Now  
9           is the time. Because otherwise we're using  
10          20-year-old, you know, last century technology.

11                    Last but not least -- I don't have time  
12          left -- the units at those wells are totally toxic,  
13          as you no doubt know, and it's a ticking time bomb  
14          beside the Catawba. You could easily have a spill  
15          and have another Chemours, PFAS pollute the entire  
16          Cape Fear River basin all the way down to  
17          Wilmington. That could happen to our beloved  
18          Catawba.

19                    Chester, I understand, has the highest rates  
20          in infant mortality in the county currently. There  
21          are congeners of dioxins found in the river, you  
22          know, in the plant, the wire plant right there on  
23          River Road, which is right across from New-Indy.

24                    So I think a lot more consideration should  
25          go into the permit and be more efficient. Use what

1 the Europeans are using now. They have, in my  
2 opinion, the best available control technology.  
3 Sorry to run over. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Could  
5 you please state your name?

6 MR. KOYLE: Oh, name? David Koyle,  
7 K-o-y-l-e.

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

9 MR. KOYLE: Thanks.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Jackie Baker.

11 MS. BAKER: I'm going to defer and do mine  
12 in writing.

13 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

14 We have Betty Rankin. Ms. Rankin, I can  
15 bring the microphone to you if you would like.

16 MS. RANKIN: Oh, that's okay. I promise not  
17 to fall.

18 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: She's a strong  
19 woman.

20 MS. RANKIN: My name is Betty Rankin,  
21 R-a-n-k-i-n. I have a Century Farm about seven air  
22 miles from New-Indy, located about five miles from  
23 Dave Lyle with the shopping area. My concerns have  
24 been expressed by those with more knowledge than I.  
25 I didn't attempt to read the permits because I'm

1 not an engineer. But I did hand it off to an  
2 engineer to read, and he -- he pretty much said  
3 what the other gentleman just said. That it's  
4 okay, and I realize we're constrained by outdated  
5 EPA standards and slow-walking things.

6 But -- and DHEC has done a marvelous job as  
7 far as I'm concerned with the constraints. So I'm  
8 not commenting on the actual submission. I do have  
9 faith in DHEC, and I have faith in the EPA to  
10 enforce the permits. I want to thank the men and  
11 women in DHEC and the EPA, along with South  
12 Carolina State Senators Michael Johnson and Mike  
13 Fanning -- I believe Senator Fanning is here  
14 tonight -- for not abandoning those of us who have  
15 been negatively impacted by New-Indy toxins.  
16 Because of all of you, I have hope that I will once  
17 again be able to enjoy living without the toxins  
18 released by New-Indy compromising my health and my  
19 quality of life.

20 Now, it's kind of ironic that almost to the  
21 day, June 14, 2021, New-Indy toxins containing a  
22 high level of hydrogen sulfide took me down in the  
23 barn, and my life forever changed. I blacked out  
24 and hit the concrete center aisle. By the grace of  
25 God, I did not get trampled by the horse I was

1 grooming or smash my head.

2 I came to disoriented and then contacted  
3 DHEC and notified the EPA team to come and read the  
4 monitor that was on my front porch. The measured  
5 level was 89 to 90 parts per billion, probably 90  
6 when I went down, since I blacked out.

7 Since that time I have seen specialists I  
8 never imagined I would need to see. All wanted  
9 baselines because of the ever-present level  
10 exposures. I'm followed by numerous specialists.  
11 Each New-Indy exposure brings an increased anxiety  
12 as the systems in my body begin to protect  
13 themselves by shutting down. The hundreds of days  
14 of exposure since 2021 has created stress. Stress  
15 creates cortisol, which in turn creates plaque in  
16 the arteries.

17 I've never ever had a problem before  
18 New-Indy. Every aspect of my life has been  
19 compromised by New-Indy toxins, and the way to  
20 reclaiming my life has been difficult. My mission  
21 became to strategically protect myself. The  
22 results on my throat, it's difficult to (inaudible)  
23 swallowing consistency of saliva and the ability to  
24 speak so others can understand me.

25 Life is good, and I am optimistic that with

1           your continued monitoring of New-Indy toxins life  
2           will continue to be better. And I urge you to make  
3           them -- I don't know that the permits would allow  
4           it. But there is absolutely no reason that they  
5           don't measure what comes out of the stacks. It  
6           makes common sense. You have the monitors along  
7           their fence line. Well, that doesn't get it  
8           because the stacks are up here. And they're picked  
9           up by the air fronts, whatever comes out, and gets  
10          deposited on me and the rest of the people in here.  
11          And that's just plain wrong. It doesn't matter to  
12          me that that's within the guidelines of the EPA.  
13          The EPA isn't living my life or anybody else's life  
14          in this room. So thank you very much.

15                   HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. That  
16                   concludes everyone who signed up earlier to make a  
17                   comment. But we will open the floor for those of  
18                   you who would like to make a comment. If you have  
19                   not signed up and would like to do so, please raise  
20                   your hands.

21                   I'll also remind you if you have a written  
22                   copy of your comments that you don't mind leaving  
23                   with us, you may hand them to myself or someone up  
24                   front or leave them on the table up front as well.

25                   Okay. Again, on behalf of DHEC I would like

1 to thank everyone who came here tonight and gave us  
2 your comments. As previously stated, written  
3 comments may be submitted to DHEC by Thursday,  
4 June 20, 2024. All written comments received on or  
5 before this date will be considered in the  
6 decision-making process.

7 Following this public hearing and formal  
8 comment period, DHEC will make a decision as to  
9 whether the draft air permits should be approved,  
10 disapproved, or modified. These decisions will be  
11 based upon review and consideration of applicable  
12 state and federal air quality regulations, comments  
13 made at this hearing in the form of the transcript  
14 and all other comments received within the required  
15 timeframe, and any other pertinent information.

16 Once a final permit decision is made for  
17 each of the three air construction permits, DHEC  
18 will provide a response to all comments received  
19 pertaining to the air construction permits along  
20 with its final decision.

21 If you indicated on the sign-in sheet that  
22 you want to receive future information about  
23 New-Indy permits or if you have submitted comments  
24 during the public comment period, you will receive  
25 notification of DHEC's decision by either US

1 standard mail, email, or certified mail based on  
2 your selection on the sign-in sheet. This  
3 notification will include information on the permit  
4 appeals process as well.

5 Please make a note of the following  
6 information: On July 1, 2024, DHEC will become the  
7 South Carolina Department of Environmental  
8 Services, DES. While the agency's services and  
9 authority will not change, all correspondence from  
10 July 1 onward will come from DES and not DHEC.

11 On behalf of DHEC, I would again like to  
12 thank you for your attendance and comments this  
13 evening. The time is now 6:50 p.m., and this  
14 hearing is officially adjourned.

15 Thank you. Have a great night.

16 (Whereupon, there being nothing further, the  
17 public hearing was concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

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

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State of South Carolina            )  
  )  
County of York                                )                CERTIFICATE

Be it known that Darlene Pastel 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;

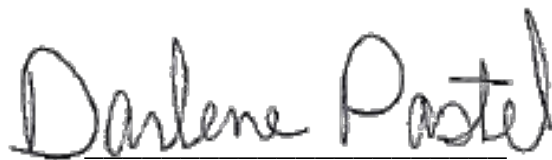
That the deponent/witness was first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth concerning the matter in the controversy aforesaid;

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.

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

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



Darlene Pastel, CVR-CM

Date: 06/20/2024  
Notary public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 09/20/2027