

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTROL (DHEC)

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

In Re: River Bend)	Transcript
Aggregates, LLC)	
River Bend Quarry)	of
Spartanburg County,)	
South Carolina)	Public Hearing
(DHEC Application I-002410))	
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Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

Time: 7:25 p.m.

Location: Benjamin E. Mays Family Center
850 Sunny Acres Road
Pacolet, South Carolina 29372

Reported by
Sallye D. Nelson
Verbatim Court Reporter

APPEARANCES

Official Speakers: Donna Moye, DHEC Public Participation Coordinator; Sarah Harris, DHEC Metal Mines & Quarries Staff; Mareesa Singleton, DHEC Minerals & Textiles Permitting Staff

Members of the Public: Mayor Ned Camby, Town of Pacolet; Mayor Jarred Spencer, Town of Cowpens; Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt; Superintendent Julie Fowler, Spartanburg School District 3; Laura Ringo, Executive Director PAL; Katherine O'Neill, Chief Economic Development Officer, SpartanburgOne, Inc.; Patrick Kay, Administrator Town of Pacolet; Chris Jolley, Sitting Chairman Spartanburg School District 3; Lenny Carr, Chantal Lemmonds, Joanne Armstrong

EXHIBITS

No exhibits were marked during this proceeding.

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PROCEEDINGS

DONNA MOYE: Good evening once again. The time is now 7:25 p.m., on Thursday, January 11th, 2024, and this public hearing will now begin. This public hearing is being held by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, also known as DHEC, to accept comments on the proposed River Bend Quarry at a site located on Hammett Grove in Spartanburg County, approximately 2.7 miles northwest and within the town limits of Pacolet, South Carolina. The purpose of this hearing is to accept comments and supporting information on the mine operating permit application and draft air permit for the proposed quarry. This is a formal proceeding and DHEC staff will not be responding to comments on questions. The comments made tonight are being recorded and will be included in the written transcript prepared by the certified court reporter seated to my right, and the transcript will serve as the official record of this public hearing, it will be posted on our webpage when available. Again, my name is Donna Moye, and I will serve as your hearing officer tonight. Thank you for taking the time to be here for this important step in DHEC's

1 permitting processes. I would also like to welcome
2 and thank all mining representatives, local public
3 officials, and members of your legislative
4 delegation who are in attendance tonight to hear
5 your comments.

6 I mentioned our webpage a moment ago. DHEC
7 has created this webpage for online access to
8 information about the proposed quarry. That
9 webpage address is www.scdhec.gov/RiverBendQuarry.
10 That's all one word. I encourage each of you to
11 visit this webpage for additional notification and
12 future updates.

13 Before I go over how we will proceed there are
14 a couple of items that I would like to address:

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

18 Next, if you have not already done so, I
19 encourage each of you to sign the attendance sheet
20 located at the sign-in table, so that we have a
21 complete record of everyone here tonight. We have
22 asked for your mailing or email address on the
23 sign-in sheet so that we know how to notify you of
24 future information regarding the proposed quarry.

25 The permitting process at DHEC begins when an

1 application is received for one or more
2 environmental permits. During this process, an
3 applicant must show that its proposed operation can
4 comply with all applicable state and federal
5 regulations. These regulations have been written
6 to ensure that human health and the environment are
7 protected. In addition to reviewing the
8 application, DHEC's role is to write and, if
9 issued, enforced permits that meet the requirements
10 of the regulations.

11 You also have a role in DHEC's permitting
12 process. That's what brings us here tonight to
13 receive your comments formally for the record.
14 Although, a final permit decision cannot be made
15 based on a vote or how many people say the same
16 thing, your comments are important and may provide
17 DHEC staff with additional things to consider
18 before final decisions are made. Comments and
19 concerns given here tonight, as well as those
20 submitted in writing by the end of the public
21 comment period, are welcomed and encouraged.

22 Presentations on the proposed quarry and
23 DHEC's permitting processes were provided by Sarah
24 Harris of DHEC's Mining and Reclamation Section and
25 Mareesa Singleton of DHEC's Air Permitting

1 Division, during the public meeting held at 6:00
2 p.m. These presentations will be made available on
3 our webpage before the end of the public comment
4 period.

5 We will now move on to the order in which we
6 will proceed with this hearing. Brief statements
7 about the proposed quarry will be read for the
8 record by Sarah Harris and Mareesa Singleton.

9 I will then begin the public comment portion
10 of the evening by randomly calling on those of you
11 who have indicated on the sign-in sheet that you
12 would like to make a comment. If you have decided
13 that you no longer wish to comment when you are
14 called on, you may decline at that time.

15 Finally, I will give anyone who has not had a
16 chance to speak the opportunity to make your
17 comments.

18 After all comments have been heard, I will
19 make closing remarks and this public hearing will
20 be adjourned.

21 For everyone to have a fair and equal
22 opportunity to participate tonight, and to ensure
23 that we proceed in a timely and effective manner,
24 the following four guidelines have been
25 established:

1 First, there will be no questions or answers
2 during or after any presentation or comment.

3 Second, your comments should not go over three
4 minutes per individual or five minutes for elected
5 officials and those speaking on behalf of an
6 organized group. I will gently remind you if you
7 do not conclude your comments at that time. If you
8 are not able to present your comments within the
9 allotted time, please remember that you may submit
10 them to DHEC in writing by the close of the public
11 comment period.

12 Third, please be respectful towards anyone
13 speaking here tonight and follow the time limit
14 that has been set. You each have a unique and
15 valued perspective. No one comment is considered
16 more important than another.

17 And fourth, please do not interrupt or ask
18 participants to respond to your comments. Should
19 any comments or actions begin to move away from the
20 intent of this hearing, I may ask the speaker to
21 limit their statements and be seated.

22 I will now call on Sarah Harris to read a
23 brief statement about the mine operating permit
24 application.

25 SARAH HARRIS: On October 23, 2023, River Bend

1 Aggregates, LLC submitted a mine operating permit
2 application to mine granite in Spartanburg County.
3 Total permitted are will be 443.1 acres, consisting
4 of 241.1 affected acres, 95 acre -- 95.8 acres of
5 future reserves, and 105.9 acres of buffer. The
6 reclamation plan proposes to reclaim the site to a
7 pond or lake and grasslands.

8 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Sarah. I will now
9 call on Mareesa Singleton to read a brief statement
10 about the draft air permit. Mareesa.

11 MAREESA SINGLETON: River Bend Aggregate, LLC
12 has applied to the Department for an air
13 construction permit to install and operate a new
14 aggregate mine and processing plant.

15 A draft permit and draft statement of basis
16 have been written outlining the proposed project
17 and applicable regulations. This permit will
18 enable the facility to construct and operate in
19 compliance with state and federal air quality
20 regulations. The permit includes federally
21 enforceable facility-wide limits of less than 250
22 tons per year of particular matter emissions and
23 less than 100 tons per year of particular matter
24 emissions less than ten microns so that the
25 facility may remain below major source thresholds

1 for both the Title V Operating Permit and the
2 Prevention -- Prevention of Significant
3 Deterioration regulations.

4 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Mareesa. We will now
5 begin hearing from those of you who indicated on
6 the sign-in sheet that you would like to make a
7 comment. All commenters will be called upon in
8 random order. And, please, clearly state and spell
9 your name for the court reporter before you begin
10 speaking. And I would like to start with Mayor
11 Camby, Mayor of Pacolet. Mayor Camby, actually --

12 MAYOR NED CAMBY: Sure.

13 DONNA MOYE: -- I forgotten to mention that
14 all comments can be made from that microphone that
15 Mayor Camby is going to.

16 MAYOR NED CAMBY: Ned Camby's N-e-d C-a-m-b-y.
17 I'd like to thank DHEC in the role for making fewer
18 companies come into South Carolina abide by the
19 laws and -- and being safe for our people,
20 communities. Pacolet is a great community, has a
21 rich history, and has close-knit people. We -- we
22 have, we'd had, had much opportunity waiting on
23 develop in recent years that have helped the town
24 jobs, infrastructure, and investment. River Bend
25 is fairly new, something that could positively

1 impact the community for years to come. Since the
2 first meeting with representatives here have been
3 they ve been very transparent, open and their plans
4 with their plans for development. In fact, based
5 on what River Bend and its affiliates have done in
6 other parts of the country, we -- we're sure that
7 they are good citizens and, you know, good
8 corporate citizens and will make good neighbors.
9 We -- we have taken the time to learn, they have
10 taken the time to learn about Pacolet, understand
11 the questions and needs and have reemphasized being
12 responsible, safe, in the -- in their planning of
13 the Pacolet location. This is a type of
14 development that we need, Pacolet wanted, the River
15 Bend -- River Bend's commitment to be part of the
16 community is to help us with much needs and
17 opportunities in Pacolet, and -- and -- and one of
18 the reasons the project has been unanimously
19 supported by town council. We look forward to
20 ongoing communications and partnerships with River
21 Bend and appreciate that the commitment to our
22 community and its people.

23 DONNA MOYE: I think I just discovered a flaw
24 in the plan, so I m going to move this over here.
25 Okay. Next, I would like to call on the Mayor of

1 Cowpens, Jarred Spencer.

2 MAYOR JARRED SPENCER: Good evening. My name
3 is Jarred Spencer, Mayor of the Town of Cowpens.
4 Mayor Camry said it all just a minute ago. As the
5 Mayor of the Town of Cowpens I m extremely excited
6 for the mayor and council and the community. It's
7 not every day you see this kind of investment being
8 brought into our small towns, and it and it's huge,
9 and it looks like they've done their homework.
10 DHEC has definitely done their homework it sounds
11 like. So it looks like everything's
12 environmentally sound. As far as picking up the
13 development point of view, again it's huge for a
14 small town like this, so we're very happy. Cowpens
15 is, Cowpens and Pacolet have close ties, they're
16 brought together by the A3 community. So we're --
17 we're happy for Pacolet. It sounds like a real
18 good thing for the community as well, so we
19 congratulate them.

20 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Mayor Spencer. Okay.
21 I believe I have County Councilman David Britt.

22 COUNCILMAN DAVID BRITT: Thank you. And I
23 will question your randomness in the selections
24 right now, two mayors and a councilman, but first
25 of all, and I am honored to be here with you. My

1 name is David Britt. B-r-i-t-t. And I am -- serve
2 on Spartanburg County Council. But just sitting
3 here I think about the rich history, as the mayor
4 pointed out, of Pacolet, in fact, if it weren't for
5 Pacolet, Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Milliken over a 130
6 years ago, we wouldn't have the economic success
7 that we've had over these last 31 years, there
8 would be no BMW, there would be no Toray, there
9 would be no River Birch Trail, the PAL trails that
10 are out there, because it all started right here.
11 And the people that work that work and live in
12 Spartanburg over these 130 years have set us on
13 this course. Again, I too congratulate DHEC and
14 applaud you for having this meeting. I also
15 applaud the people who showed up. The lady that
16 had the question about the roads, the gentleman
17 about the runoff, those are the questions that I
18 first had when I heard about this project, and I
19 posed them, you know, to the company, as well as to
20 the town of Pacolet, these. And I am here to say
21 that the mayor and the town council of Pacolet have
22 done a yeoman's job in not only getting those
23 questions answered but getting concessions and
24 aggrievance in writing in from River Bend
25 Aggregates -- Aggregates. Just like your question

1 about turning on Hammett Grove Road, and I can be
2 able to go left, that was the company's decision,
3 move it right. How your -- your question about the
4 road, how the thing is going to be, you know, not
5 only affected but maintained years to come, the
6 Town of Pacolet got that taken care of, and in
7 writing, and actually has got money coming in even
8 before the project starts. One of my concerns too,
9 and I was just starting to representing Pacolet
10 last January of '23, one of the concerns I have,
11 what's it's going to do for this community and also
12 for the Clifton community, we've got gentlemen, a
13 company getting ready to invest 72 to 75 million
14 dollars in Clifton right along the Pacolet River.
15 And I'll take a little sidebar too, when I think
16 about Clifton and the Pacolet River, probably 20
17 years ago I did a rafting trip with your former
18 mayor, Elaine Harris. She put about 20 people, you
19 know, on that river to get that -- this river
20 designated as a Blueway. Never been a kayak for
21 almost eight hours, because the river was very
22 shallow, I think I drug that thing, most that --
23 that I've ever been in a kayak. But also Elaine
24 Harris drove a station wagon or a truck and picked
25 us up, we dragged the kayaks up this hill on

1 Milliken property, it was terrible. But your mayor
2 again I'll give her a lot of credit, she had a
3 vision about Pacolet and Spartanburg and her love.
4 She was a driving force that got Vulcan to come
5 into the Town of Pacolet. I never have heard of
6 any company coming into a municipality in
7 Spartanburg County, or for that matter, maybe the
8 State of South Carolina, but she did it and kind of
9 set the groundwork for Mayor Camby and his team to
10 make it happen. And with that happening two women
11 are right here that I -- I think the world of. In
12 fact, I'll say I love them. My wife doesn't mind,
13 and she knows I talk a lot about Katherine O'Neill
14 and Laura Ringo all the time. She wants to know
15 who this Laura Ringo is by the way. But again, the
16 town negotiated with River Bend Aggregate --
17 Aggregates to the point of my concerns about
18 Clifton and their project now was going to be goal
19 laid, because Laura and her team PAL are going to
20 connect that whole riverfront all the way down to
21 Pacolet. You're going to see what's happened just
22 like over in Greenville, we kind of copied some of
23 they what they did on the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and
24 we're seeing it happen right now in Spartanburg
25 County with from Inman to Hendersonville. You

1 know, we having the, you know, the Norfolk Southern
2 Trail, whatever we call the thing, we're already
3 seeing companies buying the old, abandoned
4 manufacturing sites. The Bommer Industries site up
5 in Landrum, that's where TIME Bicycles is going,
6 this is an international company. I see a lot of
7 good things that can happen. Pacolet is not close
8 to the Interstate 85 or 26, and that's what makes
9 it hard to attract companies here. They -- they
10 want to be near people, more importantly they want
11 to be near Interstates. But you have something
12 with special in Pacolet, a Blueway with the Pacolet
13 River. And now the River Bend Aggregates agreeing
14 not only to allow PAL to come in, making a
15 contribution to help it make -- make it happen. So
16 I applaud the town council, the mayor, and the
17 people of Pacolet for making this happen. And I
18 fully support you, and I will do everything, and
19 I've committed that to the town, and to the town
20 council of Pacolet and the mayor and the community
21 that we will make sure that we work in partnership
22 with River Bend Aggregates to make your roads --
23 your road questions take place, your runoff back
24 there, and even your air quality, we'll do what we
25 can. But the fact is they didn't really have to do

1 all of this stuff. If as DHEC said, if they meet
2 the requirements, they bought the property, but
3 what they've done is just like other companies who
4 have negotiated here, they've agreed to good, be
5 good community partners and neighbors. So I -- I
6 support your mayor and your town council. And
7 again, thank you all for turning out and making
8 these questions and comments. Thank you. I hope
9 that was within five minutes, that's a record and -
10 -

11 DONNA MOYE: I was going to say, you must do
12 this often, because it was right on the dot.

13 MR. BRITT: But that's what we already count
14 that's --

15 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Councilman Britt. I
16 know we have some other elected officials here, but
17 I am going to go ahead and start, I know that the
18 three that just spoke specifically asked to speak,
19 so we wanted to make sure that we gave them the
20 opportunity to do so, so that you could hear their
21 comments ahead of your own. So now I will go on to
22 Michael Easley.

23 MICHAEL EASLEY: I pass.

24 DONNA MOYE: Okay. Please, let the record
25 reflect that Mr. Easley is not going to comment at

1 this time. Next, I have Brenda Smith. No Brenda
2 Smith? Please, let the record reflect that Ms.
3 Smith is no longer here. Julie Fowler.

4 SUPERINTENDENT JULIE FOWLER: Julie. J-u-l-i-
5 e. Fowler. F-o-w-l-e-r. Good evening, everyone,
6 Mayor Camby, town council members, elected
7 officials, and our legislative delegation, other
8 leaders in this room, and all of these
9 stakeholders. I am the proud Superindendant of
10 Spartanburg School District 3. And before I
11 address what we're here to talk about, I would be
12 remiss if I did not take this opportunity to tell
13 you that District 3 is on the move. Our school
14 performance is skyrocketing. We have students who
15 want to come into our district. What we want are
16 rooftops and families who live in our communities,
17 not who want to come from neighboring counties, and
18 this is an industry to make that happen. Economic
19 development is critical to our mission. I had the
20 opportunity to meet with Doug, a representative
21 from River Bend. I didn't ask questions tonight
22 because all of my questions had been answered. I
23 asked a lot of the questions that you all asked and
24 more. And here's what is vitally important, all of
25 the technical things are critical, but here's what

1 I learned. The thing that makes the municipalities
2 and the communities that District 3 serves so
3 special are the people. That's why we are who we
4 are, we do what we do, and we're stellar performers
5 across the board, River Bend recognizes this, they
6 have. This is not their first project. They have
7 six other projects, where the evidence is very
8 clear they've come into communities like Pacolet,
9 and they have done exactly what they have said they
10 were going to do. The evidence is there. What I
11 learned from talking to River Bend that I -- that
12 we didn't get to hear tonight because it wasn't the
13 purpose of it -- and thank you DHEC for everything
14 that you've done, you've gotten off very early, it
15 was also imperative to drive this whole project --
16 but what you didn't hear and is that I was able to
17 hear were what they were doing to partner with the
18 school district, with the community,
19 beautification, economic mobility, walkability,
20 opening up so many opportunities to things that do
21 attract families to municipalities like this. And,
22 yes, Laura, the trail, the trail is going to come
23 in here and give us access as well. We do have the
24 Pacolet River. We can -- there's so many
25 advantages. I try not to talk about disadvantages

1 or barriers, such as where we're located and we're
2 not close to an Interstate. There's so many things
3 this community offers that no one else can touch.
4 And so I thank all of the leaders that are here for
5 giving all of us as stakeholders the opportunity to
6 vet such a great opportunity. And we've got to be
7 open to doing our homework, doing our due
8 diligence, and being able to be swift and take
9 action when a great opportunity is before us. So
10 River -- River Bend, thank you all for doing all of
11 the preplanning. I have been, I've just been
12 absolutely amazed at what you have done in
13 preparation before coming in. You want to know who
14 we are, and it shows. So thank you for that.
15 Thank you for working with DHEC. Thank you for
16 going above and beyond. And you know what, you
17 just know when you know, but I already have this
18 strong sense that you are who you say you are, that
19 you re going to be here to support us and just to
20 support the people, the special sauce what will
21 make the Pacolet project different from your other
22 six projects. So thank you.

23 DONNA MOYE: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Fowler.
24 Next, I have Carol Theiler. I may be pronouncing
25 that last name wrong, Theiler. Theiler. T-h-e-i-

1 l-e-r. Ms. Carol here still, no? Laura Ringo.

2 LAURA RINGO: Good evening. My name is Laura
3 Ringo. I m the Executive Director of PAL, Play
4 Advocate Local. We are developing a 55-mile urban
5 trail that works that's made up of existing and
6 proposed trail segments. Currently most of those
7 trail segments are in the urban area of
8 Spartanburg, but we're working on an eastern
9 connection. So right now we know that we can get
10 to Glendale, and we're working on Glendale out to
11 the Pacolet River, and so from there we look
12 forward to connecting into the Clifton community
13 and also to the town of Pacolet. The trail system
14 will benefit our county and those surrounding. And
15 trail systems are great for a lot of reasons, they
16 provide safe and accessible places to be physically
17 active, so they improve our health. They also
18 connect us with nature, which is great for our
19 mental wellbeing. They connect communities,
20 neighbors to each other and then the Pacolet
21 community into the urban center. They're also
22 great for economic development. We've worked with
23 many multifamily developers who are excited to
24 connect into the trail system and provide that as
25 an asset or a resource to their renters. And also

1 if you re living let's say in downtown Spartanburg,
2 it would be a great activity to get your put your
3 family on some bikes and ride out to Pacolet, see
4 the Pacolet River, have lunch in Pacolet. The town
5 of Travelers Rest is a great example of how small
6 communities thrive thanks to trail systems, but
7 trail connections like this only happen with
8 willing property owners. River Bend has agreed to
9 build two miles of trail along their property to
10 help us make this important connection to Pacolet.
11 They've also already started as helping us with the
12 feasibility assessment to really understand what it
13 will take to do this. This will, this will really
14 help us make the connection to Pacolet in the next
15 couple of years. And we appreciate this
16 partnership to develop such an -- an important
17 community asset.

18 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Ringo. Thank you
19 for speaking so loudly. Next, I have Katherine
20 O'Neill. I promise I shuffled these. I see
21 everybody coming from the same little area.

22 KATHERINE O'NEILL: So Katherine O'Neill. K-
23 a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e. O'Neill. O-n-e-i-l-l. My name
24 is Katherine O'Neill, and I'm here tonight
25 representing OneSpartanburg, Inc. It is always

1 important to find the balance between the rights
2 that a property owner has to include extracting
3 from the land and the rights of the adjoining
4 property owners. OneSpartanburg, Inc. is confident
5 that South Carolina Department of Health and
6 Environmental Control, as well as the leadership of
7 the Pacolet town council and their administrator
8 have worked closely with the landowners to strike
9 this balance and to hold the company accountable.
10 I worked closely with the former mayor Elaine
11 Harris. I consider her my friend. And I know that
12 she would be thrilled that the city is working with
13 this company to open up land along the river for
14 public use. And hopefully a trail system aside
15 from the additional city revenue from the company
16 by its establishing its operations here, the space
17 along the river could be a real game changer to
18 attract visitors, an added amenity for local
19 residents. At the end of the day, OneSpartanburg,
20 Inc. has faith in South Carolina DHECs' process and
21 in town councils' judgement and know that they will
22 only maintain the best interest of the public but
23 will also both hold both of them hold the company
24 accountable going forward. OneSpartanburg, Inc.
25 supports this project and thanks in kind DHEC for

1 both your careful review of this permit application
2 and your time in the Pacolet community tonight.

3 Thank you.

4 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Ms. O'Neill. Next, we
5 have, I think this is Patrick Kay.

6 PATRICK KAY: My name is Patrick Kay. P-a-t-
7 r-i-c-k. Last name is K-a-y. My name is -- my
8 name is Patrick Kay. I'm the Town Administrator
9 for Pacolet, speaking in support for this project.
10 We've had a long conversation, lots of
11 conversations with River Bend and been through the
12 rest of the one of the things they brought up that
13 some of the things that we didn't necessarily think
14 of that they've already were -- were thinking of
15 while we were going through this project. We look
16 forward to having them as a community partner here
17 in Pacolet. There are concerns for wildlife. The
18 conversation that Hans and his presentation he gave
19 to council was very interesting in they are have
20 the concerns for the wildlife but also with the
21 wildlife after the -- the site is actually closed
22 down. The 200-foot buffer was -- was instrumental,
23 that we wanted to make sure as council to make sure
24 that this is done correctly and -- and keeps that
25 nice large buffer before the river and then their

1 site. The river is extremely important to the Town
2 of Pacolet, it's given Pacolet it's name, but also
3 for recreation and tourism in this area. The truck
4 washing station was a great benefit that we're
5 really glad to see that all of the trucks will be
6 washed down completely before they actually leave
7 the site, so. Their commitment to the trails and
8 the connectivity, new jobs to the community, their
9 road improvement and their ongoing maintenance for
10 that, and really appreciate the investment that
11 they're going to have in the Town of Pacolet for
12 growth over the next century, if we go that far.
13 Thank you.

14 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Kay. Next, we
15 have Hans Dawson.

16 HANS DAWSON: I've already had a chance to
17 speak. Thank you.

18 DONNA MOYE: He has already answered some
19 questions and will -- will pass on his -- his time
20 to speak. So again, Mr. Dawson, we thank you for
21 your information, providing information here at the
22 public meeting to the questions that we have. We
23 do appreciate it. Next, I have Chris Jolley.

24 CHRIS JOLLEY: That's Chris Jolley. J-o-l-l-
25 e-y. Chris. My name's Chris Jolley. I am the

1 Sitting Chairman of Spartanburg County School
2 District 3. But I'm not here to speak on the
3 school board's behalf; instead, I want to speak on
4 behalf of myself who deeply cares about the
5 communities of District 3, they're our family.
6 Pacolet is our family. I, of course, am excited
7 about the possibility of economic impact helping
8 this town, because the town has shown me that
9 they've been excited about this and that gets me
10 excited. I think that any time we can give the
11 opportunity to see our children succeed we should
12 embrace that. I think Pacolet River is the hidden
13 gem of our communities and this is drawing some
14 more attention to that. I keep waiting for those
15 individuals that have the -- the say-so, the
16 mustard to make things happen for them to see what
17 we have over here. The Pacolet River is rich in
18 history for Pacolet, it's taken care of a lot of
19 families for centuries. We're ready for some
20 sunshine over here, and I think this is one of
21 those catalysts to making it help that happen. The
22 safeguards, my skeptical side of me was addressed
23 tonight. The skeptical side of me was though I m
24 excited about the economic impact, I worry about
25 the safety of our children in this community. I

1 worry about the safety of the families of this
2 community. And I have been impressed with DHEC and
3 the safeguards that you re putting in place. I
4 didn't know that all of this was taking place.
5 This gives me some assurances that I needed. So I
6 can, I can applaud you guys on an excellent
7 presentation and I and giving us some assurances
8 that, you know, so we can lay our head down at
9 night, right. And I want to say of River Bend,
10 these guys have been extremely transparent. Dr.
11 Fowler spoke to this earlier, they met with us to
12 kind of talk a little bit preemptively of what
13 their -- what their plans were. And I thought that
14 they were looking at a lot of the things that the
15 people of Pacolet would be concerned about, their
16 road, you know, they've had working here, they
17 know. The roads, the safety of their kids, these
18 are things that they genuinely care about. So the
19 Town of Pacolet and the people within 3 will hold
20 you accountable, they will. And -- and I, and I
21 think that the opportunity for us to have a
22 partnership with you is exciting and hopefully
23 rewarding for us in the future, and I will always
24 always personally support anyone that looks to help
25 and not hurt our folks. So thank you for tonight

1 and thank you for giving me the opportunity to
2 speak to it.

3 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Jolley. It looks
4 like the last person I have is Lenny Carr -- Carr.
5 Now, how did I not get you until the very end? I
6 am so sorry.

7 LENNY CARR: I'm just a --

8 DONNA MOYE: I just --

9 LENNY CARR: -- an old -- old farmer.

10 DONNA MOYE: I just shuffled them around. You
11 just happened to be the last.

12 LENNY CARR: Absolutely.

13 DONNA MOYE: If you could, please, make sure
14 you spell your name for the court reporter.

15 LENNY CARR: Right. My name is Lenny Carr.
16 L-e-n-n-y. C-a-r-r. Most of the questions that I
17 had tonight were answered. A lot of the questions
18 that people asked was in the fact that they didn't
19 know about the company, but I do. I worked for
20 Eastern Rock Production in New York state. What we
21 got these people coming up here and saying -- I
22 thought, I thought I -- my driveway is in Cherokee
23 County, that's the direction the trucks will
24 travel, not through Pacolet, that's where they'll
25 go through. They'll go across the bridge, like I

1 said, an empty dump truck would fall through it. I
2 go across it with a piece of farm machinery and a
3 tractor, and it scares me. The road is narrow, and
4 the trucks are large, and we weren't told anything
5 about this happening until a month ago maybe at
6 best. I don't know when it was. I don't even
7 think it was a month ago. And now we got to say
8 something before another ten days or so. So in
9 other words, I feel what they're saying it's
10 already made up their mind, they're going to do it
11 whether we say no or not, and we ain't got money
12 enough to stop it anyhow. But I talked to the
13 fellows tonight about different things. I mean
14 they assured me that everything was going to take
15 place alright. I don't trust politicians. I don't
16 trust school board executives. I don't trust
17 people that lie for a living because they all do.
18 But the man that's going to be more or less heading
19 up the company has spent most of the night with me,
20 and we've talked back and forth, and it sounds like
21 a good deal for everybody around the country. But
22 the only problem that I have with it is, like I
23 said, the danger of the highway, the noise level
24 that I was assured was going to be kept down with
25 the boundaries or whatever you call, the dust

1 levels because I know they can get out of hand.
2 Somebody spoke about sulfuric acids that will
3 happen with granite, that happens with shale,
4 soapstone, sulfurs. But I thank you for listening
5 to an old farmer. That the only thing that I
6 really want is the safety of it all and the
7 protection of the people that are right next door.
8 But when Vulcan dynamites my widows rattle, and
9 they're a mile-and-a-half away from me. But these
10 people are two-tenths of a mile away, so is my
11 house going to jump up and down? We hope not. We
12 wish you all good deals. Thank you.

13 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Carr. And I am so
14 appreciative that DHEC was not among those you
15 stated you do not trust. We often hear the
16 opposite at these meetings.

17 MR. CARR: Well, I would tell you what DHEC
18 is, I don't trust it.

19 DONNA MOYE: Oh, man, but...

20 MR. CARR: I got to be honest with you, I
21 don't trust them that much, but I fear them more
22 than don't -- not trusting them.

23 DONNA MOYE: So appreciate your honesty with
24 us. That concludes everyone who signed up to make
25 a comment. I would like to give anybody the

1 opportunity to comment now who did not sign up but
2 is the thought has decided that they would like to.
3 I think maybe this young lady right here. So you
4 can come on up. Please, make sure you state and
5 spell your name for the court reporter.

6 CHANTAL LEMMONDS: Good evening. My name is
7 Chantel Lemmonds. It's C-h-a-n-t-a-l. L-e-m-m-o-
8 n-d-s. And tonight I just wanted to take an
9 opportunity to thank the DHEC, as well as River
10 Rock Aggregate. I appreciate your transparency,
11 your willingness to address the community, have our
12 questions answered. On the flip side of that
13 though I would like to say that I do not praise the
14 Town of Pacolet. I do not think that I would ve
15 been able to make this meeting and have my concerns
16 and questions answered had I not been informed by
17 for another citizen within our town of the DHEC
18 notice that you all put out as is required. I live
19 in the town, and I have recently set out a
20 grievance concerning facts that citizens are not
21 aware of things like this. They are not on the
22 Facebook page. We did not receive written
23 notification of this. I believe that there is an
24 entire part of our community that is not being
25 informed and not having their questions answered

1 and addressed tonight because we were not formally
2 told as citizens that this meeting was going to
3 happen. But again, I'm excited for what's going to
4 happen. I'm excited that we have revenue coming
5 into our town from people that are willing to
6 answer our questions and take the time to be here
7 this evening to address those concerns. And I
8 thank DHEC for coming in and making you re that our
9 community will be safe when these things happen.
10 But again, I'm very disappointed in our town for
11 not doing better to let our citizens know what is
12 happening within the town. Thank you.

13 DONNA MOYE: Thank you so much. Is there
14 anyone else who has decided that they would like to
15 make a comment that's not already done so? Come on
16 up, ma'am. Again, just make sure that you state
17 and spell your name for the court reporter.

18 JOANNE ARMSTRONG: Hello. I'm Joanne
19 Armstrong. J-o-a-n-n-e. And Armstrong. And I'm
20 speaking as an adjacent landowner who was notified
21 of the meeting tonight, didn't have a lot of
22 notice. So I've been looking over the application,
23 and I have a couple of comments to add to the
24 application. On page 5, it talks about the
25 reclamation cost estimate, the bond, and it's

1 stating that 25 or more acres, the bond amount is
2 25,000 or more. I don't think 25,000 is
3 sufficient. I don't think so. And it says so it
4 can be increased. So my suggestion is, what I did
5 is take the number of acres in this project, 443
6 and divide by the 25,000, and I came up with
7 roughly \$1,000 a acre \$443,000 is what I would
8 suggest for the bond amount. Because, you know,
9 you always have to -- I'm in a business world, so
10 you always have to plan and write in right from the
11 beginning for things to go wrong. And how are we
12 going to be protected, you know, if it doesn't work
13 out at all the way it's supposed to, it's just a
14 giant scar, you know. So I would like to increase
15 the bond amount, I would suggest that. And then
16 also on page 5 it says the number of years for
17 which this permit is requested, it says the life of
18 the mine. I am not agreeing with that. I would
19 like to see a specific number of years, ten or
20 twenty years, renewable, you know, so an
21 application permit, definitely renewable. But I
22 would not recommend right off the bat to give a
23 lifetime permit, you know, have it be open-ended
24 like that. I'd like to see how the project goes,
25 have a chance to reevaluate it. I know people like

1 my comments but alright. The question I had, I
2 think they addressed this in the -- the prior
3 meeting, which I was not able to be here that soon.
4 I'd like to know more about in -- in writing what
5 this mine operator has done as far as the other
6 projects, this -- this LLC in particular and
7 members of the LLC, their background and their
8 experience and what their role is going to be in
9 this project. So I'd like to know more about that.
10 I'd like to know the number of employees that will
11 work here and the salary range of those employees.
12 So I m not sure if that was discussed earlier but
13 that's what I'd like to know. Thank you for
14 listening to my comments.

15 DONNA MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Armstrong. Is
16 there anyone else who would like to make a comment?
17 Anyone else that would like to make comment?

18 Ms. Armstrong, I would like to say, please,
19 make sure you connect with DHEC staff tonight, so
20 that we can have additional conversation with you,
21 answer those questions that you have.

22 Since there are no other attendees that would
23 like to speak, the comment portion of tonight's
24 public hearing is concluded. On behalf of DHEC I
25 would like to thank everyone for coming here

1 tonight and giving us your comments.

2 Please, note once again that written comments
3 may be submitted to DHEC through Friday, January
4 26, 2024. All written comments received on or
5 before this date will be considered in DHEC's
6 decision making process.

7 If you have questions about submitting written
8 comments after tonight, please see a DHEC staff
9 member before you leave.

10 It is important to note DHEC's final decisions
11 on the mine operating permit application and the
12 draft air permit are two separate decisions. Each
13 discussion will be made after the public comment
14 period ends as follows:

15 For the draft air permit: DHEC's Bureau of
16 Air Quality will review and consider all comments
17 received and may request additional information
18 from the applicant if necessary. A decision will
19 then be made to approve, disapprove, or modify the
20 draft air permit.

21 For the mine operating permit application:
22 DHEC's Bureau of Plant and Waste Management will
23 review and consider all comments received and may
24 request additional information from the applicant
25 if necessary. A decision will then be made to

1 approve or to deny a mine operating permit.

2 These final decisions will be made
3 concurrently, once they are made DHEC will provide
4 summary responses to all comments received. The
5 permit discussions and summary responses will be
6 provided to everyone who signed in here tonight, as
7 well as those who submitted written comments during
8 the public comment hearing. The final permit
9 decisions and summary responses will also be posted
10 on our webpage.

11 You have the right to request a final review
12 of any permit decision made by DHEC. The final
13 review request must be submitted in writing to
14 DHEC's Clerk of the Board, along with a filing fee
15 in the amount of \$100 within 15 days after notice
16 of DHEC's permit decision has been mailed.

17 In consideration of this requirement, you will
18 receive notification of DHEC's permit decision by
19 standard U.S. Mail or by email. If you wish to be
20 notified of DHEC's final decision by certified mail
21 instead, please makes your request in writing no
22 later than January 26, 2024.

23 Finally, if you have questions, or if you are
24 interested in discussing specific aspects of the
25 proposed River Bend Quarry, please reach out to any

1 of our staff members. We will be happy to continue
2 a conversation with you. You can reach Sarah
3 Harris at (803)898-3887, and Mareesa Singleton at
4 (803)898-4113.

5 On behalf of DHEC, thank you again for your
6 attendance and comments this evening. The time is
7 now 8:16 p.m. and this public hearing is officially
8 adjourned. Good night.

9 (Whereupon, at 8:16 p.m., the
10 public hearing of the above-entitled
11 matter was concluded)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing hearing transcript consisting of 37 pages, represents a true and accurate transcript of the DHEC Hearing of River Bend Aggregates, LLC, River Bend Quarry, Spartanburg County, South Carolina (DHEC Application I-002410).

This transcript may contain quoted material. Such material is reproduced as read or quoted by the speaker.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 24th day of January 2024.



Sallye D. Nelson
Verbatim Court Reporter

Notary Public for the
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires: May 5th, 2032