

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

IN RE: ORANGEBURG LIMESTONE )  
QUARRY NOTIFICATION ) TRANSCRIPT  
 ) OF  
 ) PUBLIC HEARING  
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THE WITHIN PUBLIC HEARING WAS TAKEN BEFORE  
SUESAN L. RICHARDSON, A NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COMMENCING AT THE HOUR OF 7:16 P.M.,  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 AT THE TOWN OF EUTAWVILLE  
COMMUNITY CENTER, 419 PORCHER AVENUE, EUTAWVILLE, SOUTH  
CAROLINA.

REPORTED BY  
SUESAN L. RICHARDSON

APPEARANCES

DHEC OFFICIAL PRESENT:

Hearing Officer Donna Moye  
Mr. Jeremy Eddy  
Ms. Mareesa Singleton

SPEAKERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Geneva Lee  
Mr. Elliott Botzis  
Mr. Roger Adkins  
Mr. Joe Clemons  
Ms. Neomia Lee

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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Good evening, once again.  
The time is now 7:16 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th,  
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 Orangeburg Limestone Quarry at a site located  
on Addidas Road in Orangeburg County, approximately 3.5  
miles southeast of Eutawville, 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 questions or comments.  
Comments made tonight are being recorded and will be  
included in a written transcript prepared by the  
certified court reporter seated to my left. The  
transcript will serve as the official record of this  
public hearing and 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  
permitting processes. I would also like to welcome and

1           thank the mining representatives, local government  
2           officials and members of any legislative delegation who  
3           may be in attendance tonight to hear your comments.

4                    I mentioned our webpage a moment ago. DHEC has  
5           created this webpage for online access to information  
6           about the proposed quarry. That webpage address is  
7           www.scdhec.gov/OrangeburgLimestoneQuarry. And that web  
8           address is on the handout that you received when you  
9           came in. I encourage you to visit this webpage for  
10          additional information and future updates.

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

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

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

23                          Finally, you should've received an agenda  
24          when you signed in. The agenda shows the steps of  
25          this hearing and includes mailing information if

1           you would like to submit written comments after  
2           tonight.

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

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

23          Presentations on the proposed quarry and DHEC's  
24          permitting processes were provided by Jeremy Eddy of  
25          DHEC's Mining and Reclamation Section and Mareesa

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 First: There will be no questions or answers  
25 during or after any presentation or comment.

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

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

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

20                  I will now call on Jeremy Eddy to read a brief  
21                  statement about the mine operating permit application.  
22                  Jeremy?

23                  MR. EDDY: The Department of Health and  
24                  Environmental Control received an application from  
25                  Vulcan Construction Materials, L.L.C. requesting to

1 mine limestone in Orangeburg County on September 25th,  
2 2023. The applicant is requesting a total of 693.2  
3 acres to be included in the mine permit with 451.9  
4 acres being described as affected, 161.6 acres as  
5 buffer, and 79.7 acres as future reserves.

6 Additionally, the applicant is requesting to process  
7 materials on-site and to blast under this permit.

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

11 MS. SINGLETON: Vulcan Construction Materials,  
12 L.L.C., Orangeburg Quarry has applied to the Department  
13 for an air construction permit to install and operate a  
14 new aggregate mine and processing plant.

15 The draft permit and draft statement of basis have  
16 been written outlining this proposed project and  
17 applicable regulations. This permit will enable the  
18 facility to construct and operate in compliance with  
19 the state and federal air quality regulations.

20 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Mareesa.

21 As we transition into the comment portion of this  
22 public hearing, I would like to reiterate that DHEC  
23 staff are here to listen to your comments. Answers or  
24 responses to questions will not be provided tonight.  
25 All comments made during this hearing are being



1 recorded. And if we can ask you to please step up here  
2 to the -- right in front of this table to give your  
3 comments, that will help the court reporter since we  
4 don't have a microphone. Please remember if you're  
5 unable to complete your comments within the three-  
6 minute allotted time, you may submit them in writing  
7 through the end of the public comment period on Friday,  
8 February 23rd, 2024.

9 We will now hear from those of you who indicated  
10 on the sign-in sheet that you would like to make a  
11 comment. You will be called upon in random order.  
12 Please clearly state and spell your name for the court  
13 reporter before you begin speaking.

14 The first I have is Geneva Lee. And there is an  
15 almost invisible chord right here hanging between these  
16 two tables, so Ms. Lee, if you could stand right there.

17 MS. G. LEE: Okay. Good evening. My concern  
18 about the new Vulcan establishment is that for years we  
19 have been having problem. I've been having problem  
20 with water. You cannot wash white clothes, you cannot  
21 drink, and sometime cooking. You have to buy bottled  
22 water and you have to buy chemicals to clean your  
23 bathtub. I have -- the floors have dropped, the blocks  
24 have cracks in it, windows cracked, doors have changed  
25 their dimension and everything. So, my concern is, two

1 quarry is going to really put us in a sink hole.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Ms. Lee, can you spell your  
3 name for me?

4 MS. G. LEE: G-E-N-E-V-A.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. And it's Lee, L-E-E?

6 MS. G. LEE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next,  
9 I have Harry Gadson.

10 MR. UNKNOWN: I think he left.

11 [Inaudible.]

12 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: I can come back to him.  
13 Next, I have Elliott Botzis. Mr. Botzis, if you would  
14 make sure to spell your name for the court reporter.

15 MR. BOTZIS: It's E-L-L-I-O-T-T, last name is B-O-  
16 T-Z-I-S, and I'm speaking on behalf of Vulcan  
17 Materials. Good evening, my name is Elliott Botzis;  
18 I'm the Vice-President and General Manager of Vulcan  
19 Materials in South Carolina. I've been with the  
20 company for over 23 years and I'm responsible for the  
21 18 operations we have in South Carolina. You know,  
22 thank you, DHEC, and thank you for choosing to be here  
23 tonight. And we appreciate the opportunity to show our  
24 project, but also, we did have a meeting in December to  
25 address questions and concerns and had people come to

1           that meeting. But if y'all would like for us to come  
2           meet with y'all individually, I'll be here after this  
3           meeting and get your contact information and we can set  
4           up a meeting. You know, Vulcan is the largest  
5           construction aggregates company in the country, and I'm  
6           not saying that to impress you, I'm just saying that  
7           because we have a successful track record. We have a  
8           successful track record in South Carolina, and we have  
9           a successful track record in 22 states throughout this  
10          country. You know, and we're not located in a -- you  
11          know, when we go into a new facility in a new  
12          community, we're not coming there to just locate a  
13          facility, we get involved with the community and  
14          partner with the community, and we look forward to  
15          doing that here. And again, I'll be here after this  
16          meeting. Would love to meet with you individually to  
17          discuss our project. And thank you again.

18                   HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Botzis. I  
19                   hope it's easier for y'all to get out of these chairs  
20                   than it is for me. Age is starting to show. Next, I  
21                   have Roger Adkins. Mr. Adkins, if you'd just state and  
22                   spell your name for the court reporter.

23                   MR. ADKINS: Okay. Roger, R-O-G-E-R, Adkins, A-D-  
24                   K-I-N-S. I'm on Town Council with Eutawville. And my  
25                   concern is the traffic, which is probably a DOT

1 question. But there's only four directions from the  
2 quarry: north, south, east, and west. If you're going  
3 anywhere besides east, you're coming through  
4 Eutawville. Now, this intersection just beyond the  
5 next building or so here, we have a guy that drives  
6 truck -- oh, I don't see him at the moment. Yeah,  
7 there he is right there. He can tell you how hard it  
8 is to get out of that intersection with one truck.  
9 When you got a string of trucks, it's going to be a  
10 problem because there's no way to get out without  
11 swinging into the oncoming traffic from whichever  
12 direction. That's just something that not sure if  
13 anybody had given any thought, but that's going to be a  
14 big problem for the Town of Eutawville. It'd be  
15 something to look into.

16 MR. BOTZIS: Okay.

17 MR. ADKINS: There's hardly any other direction  
18 around town.

19 MR. BOTZIS: Uh-huh (affirmative).

20 MR. ADKINS: So, thank you for your time.

21 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Adkins.

22 Next, I have Ronald Bradshaw. Ronald Bradshaw?

23 MS. UNKNOWN: Think he left.

24 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Did Mr. Bradshaw leave?

25 MS. UNKNOWN: He was sitting over there, I think.

1 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Okay. We'll come back to  
2 him in just a minute as well. Joe Clemons?

3 MR. CLEMONS: Yeah.

4 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Come on up, Mr. Clemons.

5 MR. CLEMONS: All right.

6 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Please make sure you spell  
7 your name for the court reporter --

8 MR. CLEMONS: Okay.

9 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: -- please.

10 MR. CLEMONS: All right. Joe Clemons, C-L-E-M-O-  
11 N-S. I guess you got the Joe part.

12 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir.

13 MR. CLEMONS: Well, I got here late so I probably  
14 missed all the breakdown and the layout and all the  
15 things that really need to be understood to have an  
16 intelligent comment. But since I don't, I can make a  
17 comment. But my concern is that, like the young lady  
18 was saying earlier, is that we been endured problem and  
19 situations in this -- in our community from the first  
20 rock plant. And the benefits of having them there  
21 doesn't over -- doesn't compensate for the problem that  
22 it creates. And then, sure, you might hire some people  
23 in the -- from the community, but they come with no  
24 permanent guarantee. And then you've been finished  
25 with them for a little bit, you get rid of them. Like

1           now, they bringing all, everybody from everywhere, and  
2           the local people can't even get a job and all we got to  
3           do -- all we doing is enduring the repercussions of all  
4           the problem it creates: the water, the land. I got  
5           cracks all in my house and everything. People have  
6           gotten killed on that -- on the road because all that -  
7           - all that residue that comes from the rock plants gets  
8           on your car, headlights and different things, and you  
9           can't see the road as good as you need to, especially,  
10          in the nighttime. And also, you always got to wash  
11          your car and stuff. And I don't know exactly where the  
12          location is going to be or how close that going to be  
13          to where we are, but -- and just like the other the guy  
14          talking about, talk traffic part. I think we don't  
15          need this in our community, and I wish y'all would find  
16          another place to go.

17                   HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Clemons.  
18           That sounded very thought out, so. All right, we're  
19           going to come back to Harry Gadson. Did Mr. Gadson  
20           come back in? Or Ronald Bradshaw?

21                   So, that's everybody that has indicated on the  
22           sign-in sheet that they definitely wanted to speak.  
23           Has anyone else decided that they would like to make a  
24           comment now even though you didn't sign up to make one?  
25           Yes, ma'am, come on up. Just make sure you state and

1 spell your name for the court reporter.

2 MS. N. LEE: My name is Neomia, N-E-O-M-I-A, Lee.

3 Okay. As I've said earlier, it has been repeated over  
4 and over again of what is going on in our area, the --  
5 [inaudible] -- studies being done, and they -- they've  
6 done everything above the water, the home, and I have  
7 my concern. Concern going forward is that the gadget  
8 that is used to measure the blasting becomes under your  
9 requirement, so it doesn't matter what it does to our  
10 home. And if that is not going to change and we under  
11 the same situation, then we going to continue to have  
12 more damage, and then you're not going to hear what we  
13 have to say because it doesn't meet your guideline.

14 And we have -- we do have -- you know, we do have  
15 damage, so I -- I'm just here to say that since all of  
16 this is, you know, is happening and still going on, as  
17 a community I think we would like to be heard,  
18 considered. And you know, a lot of times people think  
19 of compensating, you know, "What is my compensation?"  
20 I live there. This is my home. I don't want to go  
21 anywhere. I'm not asking anybody for anything. I just  
22 need my home safe, you know, for my family. That's all  
23 -- that's what I need. I need to be safe. Just like  
24 you safe in your home, I need to be safe in mine. And  
25 I don't see that happening if these guideline doesn't

1 match up, I mean, if we can't meet the qualification to  
2 be helped. And that is sad. That is sad. So, you  
3 come in our community, and there's nothing that we can  
4 do about it, and not only that, we're not even being  
5 heard -- well, yeah, you hear me. You hear us. But  
6 then you go home and then the plant come in, you know.  
7 If your decision for coming -- my own honest opinion, I  
8 think the decision, you know, you have to go through  
9 regulation to do something. You know, you're going to  
10 sell property, you have to post it in the newspaper.  
11 We're here for all of that tonight. We realize that.  
12 But the bottom line is, what happened to the people in  
13 the community? Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Lee. And  
15 it's good to see you again by the way. Is there anyone  
16 else who has decided that they would like to make a  
17 comment at this time? Anyone who spoke during the  
18 meeting who would like to -- don't let the court  
19 reporter scare you. She's just going to make sure all  
20 of this is put together in a written report so that  
21 y'all have access to it, we'll have access to it. Want  
22 to make sure that we get everybody's comments in one  
23 place who's here tonight, so now is your opportunity to  
24 do that. Want to make sure that you come forward.  
25 [Cell phone rings.] Is somebody calling in to comment?



1 Well, looks like I've called on everyone then who  
2 wished to make a comment tonight. Since there are no  
3 other attendees who would like to speak the comment  
4 portion of tonight's public hearing is concluded.

5 On behalf of DHEC, I would again like to thank  
6 everything for coming here tonight and giving a  
7 comment. Please note once again that written comments  
8 may be submitted to through Friday, February 23rd,  
9 2024. All written comments received on or before this  
10 date will be considered in DHEC's decision-making  
11 processes.

12 If you have questions about submitting written  
13 comments after tonight, please see a DHEC staff member  
14 before you leave.

15 And it is important to note that DHEC's final  
16 decisions on the mine operating permit application and  
17 the draft air permit are two separate decisions. Each  
18 decision will be made after the public comment period  
19 ends, as follows:

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

25 For the mine operating permit application, DHEC's

1 Bureau of Land and Waste Management will review and  
2 consider all comments received and may request  
3 additional information from the applicant if necessary.

4 A decision will then be made to approve or deny the  
5 mine permit application and a mine operating permit.

6 These final decisions will be made concurrently.

7 Once they are made, DHEC will provide summary responses  
8 to all comments received. The permit decisions and  
9 summary of responses will be provided to everyone who  
10 signed in here tonight, as well as those who submitted  
11 written comments during the public comment period. The  
12 final permit decisions and summary responses will also  
13 be posted on our webpage.

14 You have the right to request a final review of  
15 any permit decision made by DHEC. The final review  
16 request must be submitted in writing to DHEC's Clerk of  
17 the Board, along with a filing fee in the amount of  
18 \$100 within 15 days after notice of DHEC's permit  
19 decision has been mailed. Please note that the appeal  
20 process will change effective July 1st, 2024. Should  
21 the permit decisions be made after this date,  
22 information on the new appeal process will be provided  
23 on our webpage.

24 You will receive notification of DHEC's permit  
25 decisions by standard U.S. Mail or by email. If you

1 wish to be notified of DHEC's final decisions by  
2 certified mail instead, please make your request in  
3 writing no later than February 23rd.

4 If you have questions or if you're interested in  
5 discussing specific aspects of the proposed Orangeburg  
6 Limestone Quarry, please reach out to any of our staff  
7 members you see listed on this slide. We will be happy  
8 to begin or continue a conversation with you.

9 Finally, you should've received a survey form when  
10 you signed in. We are interested in knowing your  
11 thoughts and suggestions about what you liked or didn't  
12 like about tonight's meeting and hearing. We can  
13 always improve and so we also always look for those  
14 suggestions. We want to make sure that we are looking  
15 -- continue to look at the ways that we communicate and  
16 share information with you. And so that's the --  
17 [inaudible] -- of the survey. Please take a moment to  
18 complete the survey and you can leave it right in here  
19 in this box before you leave.

20 So, on behalf of DHEC, thank you again for your  
21 attendance and comments. The time is now 7:40 p.m. and  
22 this public hearing has adjourned. Goodnight.

23 WHEREUPON, AT 7:40 P.M., THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
24 ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER WAS CONCLUDED.)

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1                   (\*This transcript may contain quoted material.  
2           Such material is reproduced as read or quoted by the  
3           speaker.)

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
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Be it known that I took the foregoing public hearing; and for the State of South-Carolina-at-large;

The foregoing transcription 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 not related to nor an employee of any of the parties hereto, nor a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor interested in the outcome of this action.

Witness my hand and seal this 20th day of February, 2024.



Suesan L. Richardson, Notary Public for SC  
Notary in and for the State of South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: August 24, 2027