

Background

Culclasure Farm Tract, LLC (Culclasure) submitted a permit application to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to mine sand and gravel at a 68-acre site located in Calhoun County, on both sides of Horsefeathers Lane, approximately ½ mile east of its junction with US Hwy 21. The proposed mine includes buffers around the site, a screening area, sediment control ponds, stockpiles, an on-site haul road, stormwater discharge, and surface water withdrawal. It does not include blasting, crushing, or other operations requiring an air permit.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **DHEC** is responsible for issuing or denying environmental permits needed to comply with the S.C. Mining Act and other applicable state and federal regulations.
- The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** ensures that protective measures are in place for any jurisdictional wetlands that may be impacted.
- The **S.C. Department of Transportation (DOT)** has jurisdiction over the safety and maintenance of US Hwy 21.
- The **S.C. Department of Natural Resources** and **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** ensure that measures are in place to protect natural resources and any endangered plant or animal species that may be impacted.
- **Calhoun County** has jurisdiction over maintenance of Horsefeathers Lane. The **Calhoun County Planning Commission** ensures that all local ordinances, zoning, or other requirements are met.

DHEC Permitting Time Line

DHEC's review of the proposed Culclasure Mine began in **July 2015** upon receipt of the original application. Following is a brief time line of events that have occurred in DHEC's permitting process since that time.

October 2015 - the mine application was placed on public notice. Multiple requests for a public hearing were received.

January 2016 - DHEC requested additional information from the applicant, including updated maps and plans for the protection of wetlands.

Culclasure received approval from DHEC's Bureau of Water for coverage under the NPDES General Permit for Discharges Associated with Nonmetal Mineral Mining Facilities. This permit sets limits on the discharge of mine dewatering and stormwater from the site.

February 2017 – April 2017 - a revised mine application was received by DHEC and placed on public notice.

June 2017 - DHEC staff met with representatives of Calhoun County, Culclasure, DOT, and a concerned resident to discuss the revised application. Plans for an informal public meeting with the local community were made.

Next Steps

DHEC is aware of concerns about surface water withdrawals and possible impacts to private wells. In response to these concerns, DHEC is encouraging well owners to complete and return a **well survey form**. This information will help DHEC to better understand private well details in the area and assess the potential for significant impacts. It will also provide DHEC with valuable baseline data for future comparison, if needed.

If all outstanding issues with the permit application are satisfactorily addressed by the applicant, DHEC will place a draft permit on public notice for comment. A formal public hearing will be scheduled to receive and record any **additional** comments. DHEC will provide a 30-day advance notice of the public hearing. DHEC will continue to accept written comments for 10 days after the public hearing. All comments will be reviewed and considered by DHEC prior to a final decision.

Visit our webpage for additional information: www.scdhec.gov/publicnotices. For questions about the proposed mine or how to submit comments, please contact Ed Haigler, DHEC Project Manager, at (803) 898-1375, or by e-mail at haiglewe@dhec.sc.gov.