



APPEARANCES

DHEC officials present:

Donna Moye  
Kristy Ellenberg  
Barbara Evans  
Katherine Yon  
Jeremy Eddy  
Lance Davis

Speakers from the public:

Rep. Annie McDaniel  
Morris Lyles  
Lynn Crane  
Lauren Megill Milton  
Susan Randall  
Pelam Lyles  
Brandon Jones  
Virginia Pierce  
John Lyles  
Robert Seibels  
James Kilgo  
Eleanor Thomas Parrish  
Cal Harrison  
Josephine Lyles  
Pamela Greenlaw  
Eben Stevenson  
Priscilla Preston  
Ben Thompson  
Kristi Coggins  
Chris Cole  
Mike Zeno  
Harriet Brown  
Dan Stevenson  
Willie Qualls  
David Lewis  
Robert White

(Via GoToMeeting)

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PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. MOYE: Hello and welcome. The time is now 6:31 p.m.  
3 on Thursday, August 5, 2021, and this public  
4 hearing will now begin. My name is Donna Moye, and  
5 I will serve as the hearing officer tonight.

6 Please note that this hearing is being  
7 recorded. This virtual public hearing is being  
8 held by the South Carolina Department of Health and  
9 Environmental Control, hereafter referred to as  
10 DHEC. The purpose of this hearing is to accept  
11 comments and supporting information on the mine  
12 operating permit application and draft air permit  
13 for the proposed Fairfield Quarry. Luck Stone  
14 Corporation has submitted applications to DHEC to  
15 construct and operate this granite mine at a site  
16 located in the vicinity of the intersection of SC  
17 Highway 34 and Simpson Circle in Fairfield County,  
18 approximately 3.5 miles west of Ridgeway, South  
19 Carolina.

20 Some have chosen to attend this hearing in  
21 person at the Geiger Elementary School in Ridgeway.  
22 My colleague Kristy Ellenberg will be assisting  
23 from this remote location. I'll ask her to  
24 introduce herself now. Kristy?

25 MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you, Donna. I'm sorry. I was

1 helping with registration. So it's a pleasure to  
2 be here tonight. I'm Kristy Ellenberg.

3 MS. MOYE: I think I might've caught her just a little  
4 off guard, but that's okay. Thank you, Kristy.

5 We also have behind-the-scenes virtual  
6 assistance from a member of our tech team tonight.  
7 I'll ask Katherine to introduce herself now.

8 MS. YON: Good evening, everyone. This is Katherine  
9 Yon.

10 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Katherine. This virtual aspect  
11 does sometimes have its own unique challenges, as  
12 many of you are aware if you attended our public  
13 meeting. We certainly do appreciate your patience  
14 and understanding as we work through any technical  
15 issues that may arise.

16 Providing safe and effective opportunities for  
17 public involvement in the permitting process has  
18 remained a top priority for DHEC throughout the  
19 COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of DHEC, it is a  
20 pleasure to be with you tonight, and we thank you  
21 for taking the time to join us.

22 We will be doing a few things for our remote  
23 participants to help prevent distractions and  
24 ensure that everyone is heard at the appropriate  
25 time. All cameras have been turned off, and all

1 lines have been muted to minimize background noise  
2 and echoing during the presentation. After the  
3 presentation, we will unmute lines and share  
4 further instructions so that all who would like to  
5 comment tonight are able to do so.

6 The permitting process at DHEC begins when an  
7 application is received for one or more  
8 environmental permits. During the permitting  
9 process, an applicant must show that the proposed  
10 operation can comply with state and federal  
11 regulations. These regulations were developed to  
12 ensure that human health and the environment are  
13 protected. In addition to reviewing the  
14 applications, DHEC's role is to write and, if  
15 issued, enforce permits that meet the requirements  
16 of the regulations.

17 You also have a role in DHEC's permitting  
18 process. Your comments are important to us and may  
19 provide DHEC staff with additional things to  
20 consider when making final decisions regarding the  
21 proposed quarry. Final decisions have not yet been  
22 made and will not be made here tonight. The  
23 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide  
24 comments before final decisions are made. Comments  
25 made tonight are being recorded and will be

1 included in a written transcript prepared by a  
2 certified court reporter. DHEC welcomes and  
3 encourages all comments made tonight, as well as  
4 those submitted in writing, through the end of the  
5 public comment period on Friday, August 20, 2021.

6 DHEC has created a web page for convenient  
7 access to information about the proposed quarry.  
8 The web page address, once again, is  
9 [scdhec.gov/luckstonefairfield](http://scdhec.gov/luckstonefairfield). A recording of this  
10 public hearing will be posted on the web page prior  
11 to the end of the public comment period. If you  
12 have not already done so, I encourage each of you  
13 to go to DHEC's web page and complete the  
14 registration form for this hearing. This will let  
15 us know how to notify you of the final decisions  
16 regarding the proposed quarry.

17 We will now move on to our agenda and the  
18 order in which we will proceed for this hearing.  
19 An overview of the proposed quarry and DHEC's mine  
20 permitting process will be provided by Jeremy Eddy.  
21 Following Jeremy's presentation, an overview of the  
22 draft air permit and DHEC's air permitting process  
23 will be provided by Lance Davis. Following these  
24 presentations, I will begin the public comment  
25 portion by calling on those of you who indicated

1           during pre-registration that you would like to make  
2           a comment. If you have decided that you no longer  
3           wish to speak when you are called on, you may  
4           decline at that time. I will alternate between  
5           those of you who are joining online, those of you  
6           who are joining in person, and those of you joining  
7           by phone.

8           Once we have finished hearing from all pre-  
9           registered speakers, those who did not pre-register  
10          to speak will be given an opportunity to make their  
11          comments. At that time, I will give instructions  
12          on how to indicate that you would like to make a  
13          comment. After all comments have been heard, I  
14          will make closing remarks, and this public hearing  
15          will be adjourned.

16          In order for everyone to have a fair and equal  
17          opportunity to participate tonight and to ensure  
18          that we proceed in a timely and effective manner,  
19          the following four guidelines have been  
20          established: First, there will be no questions or  
21          answers during or after a presentation or comment.  
22          Second, your comment should not go over three  
23          minutes each. At the end of your allotted time,  
24          you will hear this sound -- and Katherine will  
25          demonstrate that now.

1 I will -- thank you, Katherine. I will  
2 interrupt to remind you if you do not conclude your  
3 comments at that time. If you are not able to  
4 complete your comments within the allotted time,  
5 you may still submit them in writing before the end  
6 of the public comment period. Please keep in mind  
7 that final decisions are not made based on a vote  
8 or how many people say the same thing.

9 Third, please be respectful towards all who  
10 are presenting information or making comments here  
11 tonight. You each have a unique and valued  
12 perspective. No one comment is considered more  
13 important than another.

14 And fourth, please do not interrupt or ask  
15 other participants to respond during your comments.  
16 Comments or actions that distract from the purpose  
17 of this hearing will not be allowed.

18 I will now call on Jeremy Eddy to begin the  
19 DHEC presentation. Jeremy?

20 MR. EDDY: Thank you, Donna. Can you hear me?

21 MS. MOYE: I can hear you.

22 MR. EDDY: Okay. Great. Good evening, ladies and  
23 gentlemen, and thank you for showing an interest in  
24 our mine permitting process. Tonight, I'd like to  
25 go over our process with you, what we have already



1 accomplished, where we currently are, and what we  
2 expect for the future, and then speak of the  
3 details of the mining application and the proposed  
4 reclamation plan.

5 On March 16, 2021, DHEC received an  
6 application from Luck Stone Corporation for the  
7 proposed Fairfield I-77 Quarry. At that time, we  
8 began our administrative review to make sure that  
9 we had all relevant information for our initial  
10 public notice.

11 On April 15, 2021, DHEC published the initial  
12 public notice by running an ad in "The Voice of  
13 Fairfield County" newspaper and mailing out memos  
14 to the adjacent landowners and those that owned  
15 land within a half-mile of the proposed blasting.

16 Additionally, we sent the application package  
17 out to other federal, state, and local agencies for  
18 their comments. At this time, we began our  
19 technical review of the application package. On  
20 July 22, 2021, DHEC held a public meeting to  
21 provide information about the application package,  
22 which was followed by a question and answer period.

23 Tonight, on August 5, 2021, DHEC is holding an  
24 official public hearing. In addition to the oral  
25 comments that we will receive tonight, all

1 subsequent written comments may be delivered to  
2 DHEC via mail or e-mail. Contact information will  
3 be provided in another slide.

4 We ask that those comments be received by us  
5 no later than August 20, 2021, for consideration in  
6 our permitting process. Our technical review will  
7 continue to ensure that we address as many comments  
8 and concerns that the South Carolina Mining Act and  
9 Regulations will allow.

10 At a time to be determined, if a reason to  
11 deny the application has not been discovered, DHEC  
12 will make a permitting decision. If the permit is  
13 approved, we will include a summary response to  
14 comments, which will address the comments and  
15 concerns that we received throughout the permitting  
16 process. This will also begin the 15-day appeal  
17 period, and information on how to appeal the  
18 decision will be included. If the permit is  
19 denied, a letter of denial and reasons for such  
20 will be sent to the applicant, and they will also  
21 have an opportunity to appeal our decision.

22 The permit boundary contains three tracts of  
23 land currently under a purchase agreement with Luck  
24 Stone Corporation. This area is currently  
25 undeveloped and totals 416.8 acres. Interstate 77

1 is to the east. I-77 will be the primary avenue of  
2 transportation for any non-local haul truck  
3 deliveries, and is accessed via Highway 34,  
4 approximately one mile from the proposed access  
5 road. An alternate mode of transportation being  
6 considered is the Norfolk Southern Rail, which  
7 should alleviate deliveries via roadway.

8 The town of Winnsboro is approximately 5 miles  
9 as the crow flies in the northwest direction.  
10 Likewise, the town of Ridgeway is approximately 3  
11 miles to the east of this site.

12 Approximately 75 acres of this site have been  
13 categorized as "Buffer." Buffer is defined as land  
14 that will not be disturbed beyond the pre-mine  
15 natural state. This includes a minimum 50-foot  
16 perimeter buffer around the entire permit boundary  
17 acting as a visual screen, and minimum 75-foot  
18 buffers from any stream channels or wetlands near  
19 the affected area. Again, this is area that will  
20 remain untouched by mining activities.

21 Approximately 78 acres is categorized as  
22 "Future Reserves" and is denoted by the yellow  
23 overlay. Future Reserves are defined as areas that  
24 may be affected in the future, but would first  
25 require a modification to the permit, including

1 detailed mine and reclamation plans that must be  
2 approved by DHEC before any mining activities could  
3 commence in these areas. Additional financial  
4 assurance for reclamation must also be received by  
5 DHEC prior to any mining activities in future  
6 reserves. The applicant has indicated that these  
7 areas may become overburdened storage areas or  
8 leased as sites of future commercial development,  
9 but only if the need arises. Again, detailed plans  
10 are required to be approved by DHEC before any  
11 disturbance in these areas.

12 Last, but not least, approximately 260 acres  
13 of this site have been categorized as "Affected  
14 Area." Affected Area is defined as area of land  
15 from which overburden or minerals have been  
16 removed, or upon which overburden material has been  
17 deposited, or stockpiles and settling ponds  
18 associated with mining activities. It has been  
19 proposed that two areas will be used as overburden  
20 storage shown in green. The pit, shaded in teal,  
21 will be excavated in three phases, with the first  
22 phase at the northernmost area, and then slowly  
23 expanded southwards, into Phase 2 and Phase 3. The  
24 initial plant area is proposed to be situated in  
25 the Pit 3 phase area outlined in orange. When the

1 pit expands into Phase 3, the plant will be  
2 relocated to the south, shown by a purple outline,  
3 which also holds the office, scale house, and  
4 maintenance areas.

5 The proposed mining process will require the  
6 installation of "Best Management Practices," or  
7 BMPs. These will allow the operator to prevent or  
8 minimize off-site impacts. BMPs cover a wide array  
9 of activities and include, but are not limited to:  
10 the installation of silt fencing, brush barriers or  
11 check dams to control sediment transport; retaining  
12 or enhancing vegetation and the use of water trucks  
13 or dust suppressants to minimize dust generation;  
14 and the installation of stormwater basins to better  
15 manage the site's water balance.

16 The operator is required to perform  
17 reclamation activities concurrently with mining, as  
18 feasible. When the mine reaches its end of life,  
19 the operator is required to perform final  
20 reclamation activities. Reclamation is the process  
21 to restore the affected land to a useful purpose  
22 while protecting the natural resources of the  
23 surrounding area. The applicant has indicated in  
24 their reclamation plan that the site will be  
25 reclaimed as a pond or a lake and grasslands. The

1 land will be sloped on a 3 horizontal to 1 vertical  
2 gradient as soon as feasible, and stockpiled  
3 topsoil will be spread out on the top and sides.  
4 This will be used to revegetate these areas. The  
5 pond or lake shall also meet our minimum  
6 reclamation standards detailed in Regulation 89-  
7 330.

8 Financial assurance from the operator is  
9 required to ensure that reclamation will be  
10 completed. This is a financial mechanism, such as  
11 a surety bond or letter of credit, that will cover  
12 the cost of reclamation should the operator not  
13 meet reclamation standards. In this hypothetical  
14 scenario, this financial mechanism will be  
15 forfeited, and DHEC will use the money to complete  
16 reclamation activities.

17 To reiterate our next steps, DHEC's comment  
18 period will be open until August 20, 2021, to  
19 accept written comments, and we will consider these  
20 comments in order to continue our technical review  
21 of this permit application. At the conclusion of  
22 that technical review, when all comments have been  
23 considered, DHEC will make a final permitting  
24 decision and provide notification and a summary  
25 response to comments to everyone on our mailing

1 list. Whether the application is approved or  
2 denied, this decision will begin a 15-day appeal  
3 period, and instructions on how to appeal our  
4 decision will be included. Again, thank you for  
5 your time tonight, and I look forward to hearing  
6 your comments.

7 Next, we have Lance Davis from the Bureau of  
8 Air Quality to speak about the air synthetic  
9 construction permit. Lance?

10 MR. DAVIS: Good evening. My name is Lance Davis, and I  
11 work with the Bureau of Air Quality at the South  
12 Carolina Department of Health and Environmental  
13 Control. I am the air permit writer assigned to  
14 the Luck Stone Fairfield project, and I will be  
15 giving an overview of the draft air construction  
16 permit.

17 An air construction permit allows a facility  
18 to construct and start operation of the proposed  
19 equipment detailed in the air permit application.  
20 The proposed facility is required to obtain an air  
21 permit primarily due to the amount of particulate  
22 matter, or PM, emitted, including fine particulate  
23 matter less than 10 and 2.5 microns, known  
24 respectively as PM10 and PM2.5. Particulate  
25 matter, or dust in this case, may be a mixture of

1 solid particles and liquid droplets found in the  
2 air.

3 Luck Stone submitted an air construction  
4 permit application on April 14, 2021, for a new  
5 granite quarry and processing plant. The quarry  
6 and processing plant include crushers, screeners,  
7 and conveyors. In addition to the process  
8 equipment, dust will be generated by unpaved roads  
9 and storage piles.

10 Luck Stone has applied to receive a "Synthetic  
11 Minor" construction permit requiring their  
12 emissions to stay below major source thresholds for  
13 PM and PM10. To remain below major source  
14 thresholds as defined by the EPA, the facility is  
15 requesting federally enforceable limits of less  
16 than 100-ton per year of PM10, and less than 250-  
17 ton per year of PM.

18 State and federal regulations have established  
19 standards that are protective of the environment  
20 and public health, including the health of  
21 sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children,  
22 and the elderly. The draft -- the draft air  
23 construction permit includes all relevant state and  
24 federal air regulations.

25 The proposed facility would have particulate



1 matter and opacity limits. Opacity is the amount  
2 of visible particulate you can see. The lower the  
3 opacity, the lower the visibility of particulate  
4 matter.

5 The facility-wide opacity limit for the  
6 proposed location would be 20 percent. The opacity  
7 limit for the crushers is 12 percent and 7 percent  
8 for the screens and conveyors. The facility would  
9 be required to perform initial performance tests on  
10 the processing equipment to demonstrate compliance  
11 with these opacity limits.

12 As part -- as part of the air permitting  
13 process, the facility is also required to  
14 demonstrate compliance with National Ambient Air  
15 Quality Standards for PM10 and PM2.5. The  
16 compliance demonstration with the standards was  
17 completed using an EPA-approved model assuming the  
18 facility was operating all of its equipment at full  
19 capacity, 24 hours per day, every day of the year.  
20 Based on the compliance demonstration conducted for  
21 Luck Stone, the facility meets the standards.

22 The draft air construction permit also  
23 requires that the facility minimize and control its  
24 fugitive dust emissions. The facility must  
25 develop, submit, and receive Department approval of

1           their dust control suppression plan. The primary  
2           proposed method of dust control is wet suppression.  
3           The proposed process equipment would be equipped  
4           with wet suppression in the form of water sprays to  
5           control dust, while the dust from the roads and  
6           storage piles would be controlled by wet  
7           suppression in the form of water trucks.

8           The draft air permit and statement of basis is  
9           available to review on the Luck Stone-Fairfield I-  
10          77 project web page. Any questions or comments on  
11          the draft air permit or statement of basis will be  
12          accepted until August 20, 2021. Thank you.

13       MS. MOYE: Thank you, Jeremy and Lance. As we  
14          transition into the comment portion of this public  
15          hearing, I would like to reiterate that DHEC staff  
16          are here to listen to your comments about the  
17          proposed quarry. Answers or responses to questions  
18          will not be provided tonight. All comments made  
19          during this hearing are being recorded, and if you  
20          are unable to complete your comments within the  
21          allotted time, you may submit them in writing  
22          through the end of the public comment period once  
23          again on Friday, August 20, 2021.

24                I will now begin calling on those of you who  
25                indicated during pre-registration that you would

1           like to make a comment. I will alternate between  
2           those of you who are joining online, those of you  
3           who are joining in person at Geiger Elementary  
4           School, and those of you who are joining by phone.  
5           For those of you joining in person, Kristy will  
6           assist with getting you to the microphone when it  
7           is your turn to speak.

8                     After I call your name, you may begin your  
9           comments. Please state and spell your name for the  
10          court reporter prior to speaking.

11                    And we will begin with Representative Annie  
12          McDaniel, who I believe is in person there at the  
13          school. We will give Representative McDaniel a  
14          moment to get to the microphone.

15   REPRESENTATIVE MCDANIEL: First, let me say good evening  
16          to everyone. I didn't expect to be the first one  
17          to speak since I came in kind of late, but the  
18          Bible say, "Always be ready," so I'm ready. The  
19          time limit's three minutes, right?

20   MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

21   REPRESENTATIVE MCDANIEL: Okay. I just want to first  
22          let the persons here who are really interested in  
23          hearing and knowing what's going on with the mine  
24          coming to our county -- that it is greatly  
25          appreciated that you are stepping up, because

1 oftentimes, we don't let our voices be heard until  
2 after things happen, and it's so much harder to  
3 change anything that's put in place prior to. And  
4 I've been working very diligently with DHEC because  
5 I am very concerned, just -- not just about this  
6 mine, but any industry that comes into our county  
7 that could disrupt our environment, that could  
8 disrupt our individuals' properties, our  
9 communities, and that could leave lifelong damage.  
10 So I'm here mostly to let you know that I am -- I  
11 do care and that I am concerned and that I am  
12 working with you with DHEC.

13 And we've noted a number of things that need  
14 to happen in the future that did not happen as far  
15 as notification and some of the other things that  
16 needed to occur before this came to our community.

17 But I just want to be on record that I am  
18 requesting that color copies of this presentation  
19 be available to anybody who wants color copies, so  
20 when you review it, if you need the visual, you're  
21 able to look at the greenery and the other  
22 different pictorial items with -- without  
23 struggling, trying to look at it black-and-white;  
24 that the number of years that the permit is being  
25 requested for is reduced; that in the future when

1 we have mines or any other public hearings, that we  
2 allow citizens to hear from whoever is moving in,  
3 and in this case, Luck Stone; and that the citizens  
4 have a time to absorb and digest all of the  
5 information here, all of the questions, and then  
6 have the public hearing. Because I was of the  
7 understanding that this was going to be just a  
8 public hearing, and all the other information had  
9 already been provided, but once getting here --  
10 arriving here, that was not the case.

11 I'm sure you're aware of Chester having a  
12 similar situation with the mine going there, and I  
13 have expressed a concern, because I also represent  
14 part of Chester with that process. And the ball  
15 being dropped at that particular one is -- is  
16 asking to be located near a school. So we're  
17 working on trying to get something in place where  
18 that is not a future problem.

19 But what concerned me when I had the meeting  
20 this morning is a lot of what we talked about was  
21 futuristic and not the here and now. So I do look  
22 forward to hearing what you all have to say, who've  
23 taken the time out of your schedules to come out,  
24 so that I can further do what I can in my  
25 respective position to work for you in your favor.





1           we have a conversation with someone that can answer  
2           more than they will bring water in or, "We'll dig a  
3           new well."

4           In my experience as a real estate broker, you  
5           can't just snap your fingers and dig a new well,  
6           nor can you run a water line very quickly, nor can  
7           you shower very easily using bottled water. DHEC,  
8           I'm looking to you -- to both you as the permit  
9           giver for this 100-year project for answers, as  
10          well as Luck Stone as the operator that intends to  
11          operate this mine.

12          I would also like to go on the record as  
13          stating my -- my niece, who has suffered from  
14          asthma -- we've got concerns concerning the -- the  
15          particulates in the air, the increased level of  
16          that, and her ability to enjoy the land and -- and  
17          use and enjoy the land.

18          I also have concerns with the height of the  
19          runoff barriers that are intended to protect  
20          Dutchman's Creek. And those that were here in 2015  
21          remember: We got about 20 inches of rain in a 48-  
22          hour period. What assurances can be given that the  
23          dams will hold and don't burst and flood the creek  
24          and our property and Dutchman's Creek?

25          My last concern is: How is this project going



1 to impact the value of our property? For the next  
2 hundred years, we'll have a neighbor that nobody  
3 really wants to be next to. And, overall, how will  
4 this in fact our -- impact our timber farm  
5 operations on our property moving forward? So we'd  
6 love to get some answers for that. Thank you.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Go, Morris.

8 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Lyles. And thank you  
9 to our four-legged friend who is joining us  
10 tonight, wherever it may be.

11 Next, I would like to call on Lynn Crane.

12 Lynn Crane?

13 MS. ELLENBERG: Ms. Crane is also here, Donna.

14 MS. CRANE: I'm Lynn Crane, and I live on Barber Road.

15 I had signed up to speak, and I wasn't -- decided I  
16 wasn't going to, until Annie McDaniel said  
17 something that kind of threw me, here. She was  
18 talking about receiving information in the mail  
19 about this project. The way I heard about this  
20 project -- and I live on Barber Road and own almost  
21 800 acres of land, so I know that my name is on  
22 some tax records that people would know to get my  
23 address. The way I heard about it was: A man --  
24 he may be here, and I don't know him. Will Harris,  
25 he put a note in my mailbox about this and said he

1           would like to speak to us. That is the only way I  
2           heard about this project, so I think that's  
3           important. And, Ms. McDaniel, I'm glad that you  
4           mentioned that.

5           Also, the part about the colored maps, I sat  
6           here and scribbled what areas were going to be what  
7           on that map, so, you know, we really need to know.  
8           Part of my land does come near that, but I do live  
9           on that road. There are four houses on that road  
10          we have that have wells that were dug -- drilled  
11          600/700 feet. I'm concerned about the water being  
12          depleted. And also we have two ponds, one of which  
13          is spring-fed. They all have -- both of them have  
14          fish in them.

15          Along with the other health problems -- but I  
16          think my main concern is the water, and, again, as  
17          Morris said, the property values. When you own  
18          that much land, you know, you expect to sell it or  
19          leave it to your children. Is anybody going to  
20          want it being that close to it? Thank you.

21   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Crane. And I did want to  
22          follow up because you mentioned the -- the handout,  
23          and Representative McDaniel did, as well. To  
24          assure anyone that would like a color copy, we will  
25          be more than happy to provide that. If you are in

1 person there, if you'll let Kristy know before you  
2 leave where we can send that to, we'll be -- we'll  
3 be glad to do that.

4 If you're joining us virtually, the  
5 presentation is posted on our web page, but if you  
6 would also like a color copy, please just get in  
7 touch with us and let us know that, and we'll be  
8 glad to provide that to you.

9 So, moving on now, I would like to call on  
10 Lauren Megill Milton with the South Carolina  
11 Environmental Law Project. I believe she's there  
12 in person, Kristy.

13 MS. ELLENBERG: Well, Donna, it looks like she's making  
14 her way to the front.

15 MS. MOYE: Okay. We will give her just a moment.

16 MS. MILTON: I've just got short legs. I'm slow.

17 MS. ELLENBERG: No. Hey, it's a big --

18 MS. MOYE: It looks like --

19 MS. ELLENBERG: We've got a big room and -- and a very  
20 full crowd tonight.

21 MS. MILTON: We sure do. Hey, y'all. My --

22 MS. MOYE: Thank you.

23 MS. MILTON: -- name is Lauren Megill Milton. I'm an  
24 attorney with South Carolina Environmental Law.

25 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you get closer to the mic,

1 so we can hear you?

2 MS. MILTON: Oh, yeah, yeah. Sorry. I'm an attorney  
3 with South Carolina Environmental Law Project. If  
4 you guys have been here at the last public meeting  
5 or the one at Ridgeway, you've probably seen me  
6 already. I've spent the last few months looking  
7 over this proposal and coming up here, and I've  
8 gotten to know so many of y'all up here in  
9 Fairfield County.

10 This might seem like a little bit of a  
11 backstory, but it all ties in, I promise. But one  
12 of the things that I've noticed is when y'all are  
13 telling me the concerns that you have about this  
14 quarry, you're not only telling me your concerns  
15 for yourselves and for your families. You're  
16 telling me your concerns for your neighbors, for  
17 the folks, you know, who live up the road, down the  
18 road, upstream, downstream. Nearby property owners  
19 are worried about the ones that are adjacent  
20 homeowners. This is a community of people who are  
21 good neighbors who look out for their neighbors,  
22 and I like that. And I understand that, with this  
23 proposal, Luck Stone wants to be your neighbor.

24 I have concerns -- deep concerns about this  
25 project I've shared with DHEC. I hope they listen

1 to those, and I hope they listen to all of your  
2 concerns about the project, also. But more than  
3 that -- because DHEC knows what I have to say about  
4 the project -- I want Luck Stone to hear me  
5 tonight.

6 And what I have to say is: If you want to  
7 come to this community, you need to commit to being  
8 the kind of neighbor to them that they are to one  
9 another. And what that means is transparency. It  
10 means sharing the information that you have. It  
11 means making promises and keeping them. One of the  
12 biggest concerns that I've had and still have about  
13 this is water quality. We need more answers on  
14 water quality. You guys need to feel secure in it.  
15 There's a lot of impacts here that are all  
16 cumulative over the next hundred years. We need  
17 some answers.

18 On that point, what I would like to ask Luck  
19 to do to fit into this community -- a community  
20 that looks like this and looks out for their  
21 neighbors -- commit to transparency, listen to the  
22 suggestions of the community, make DHEC's job  
23 easier right now by committing to perform routine  
24 hydrology tests and posting the results for the  
25 community so that they feel secure, commit to

1 replacing the wells of people who feel like their  
2 well might be impacted.

3 We also share the concerns of the community on  
4 dust. We would like to see Luck do formal dust-  
5 monitoring mitigation, install some air monitors.  
6 Rock-crushing operations in quarries are a dusty  
7 business. That's what every -- all the water is  
8 needed for. But monitor, post those results for  
9 the community. Transparency -- share the  
10 information that you have.

11 And the other thing that I'd like to see you  
12 do is a citizen panel board so that everybody can  
13 share their discussions, talk about this, and it's  
14 monitored on an ongoing basis. That's what I'd  
15 like to see from Luck.

16 DHEC, thank you for your time in setting up  
17 this meeting.

18 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Milton. And I do  
19 remember you from the public meetings, so thank you  
20 for coming back to join us for the public hearing,  
21 as well.

22 Okay. I want to go to someone who, I believe,  
23 is joining us by phone, Susan Randall. Ms.  
24 Randall, you can \*6 to unmute your phone.

25 MS. RANDALL: Can I speak to you (technical

1 disturbance)?

2 MS. MOYE: I --

3 MS. RANDALL: Can you hear me?

4 MS. MOYE: I can hear you, thank you. Please go ahead.

5 MS. RANDALL: Okay. I'm online, but I'm not on phone.

6 As the owner of two pieces of land next to the Luck  
7 company project, I will be directly impacted by the  
8 quarry mining industry. If you got the map that  
9 everyone has, the green map with the orange inlay,  
10 I am just north of Phase 1, and I am just east of  
11 Phase 1 next to the cranes. My property backs up  
12 to Phase 1.

13 Phase 1 is to be the blasting pit of the  
14 quarry. It's where the noise and the sound and the  
15 air quality needs to be monitored. It needs to be  
16 reported to the property owners on a regular basis.  
17 I agree with Lauren. We need to have postings --  
18 public postings in the newspaper, at the post  
19 office, wherever you can put it out all over  
20 Fairfield County so that everyone is aware of when  
21 the blasting starts and when the blasting stops.

22 If I were to build a house on my land, I might  
23 not be able to breathe the air, as I am an  
24 asthmatic, and have been one all of my life. The  
25 dust would kill me. The noise level must be

1 restricted to certain hours, and we must be  
2 informed of the schedule.

3 The next phase is Phase 2, directly below  
4 Phase 1. That's where the plant would be. The  
5 wetlands -- I'm sorry -- it's directly across --  
6 it's the wetlands area. This is another permit.  
7 And as my land contains a stream and it is directly  
8 north of the wetland, I need to find out if the  
9 sediments are monitored. And fill materials, which  
10 might affect the water quality, these need -- we  
11 need to know about this.

12 We want the buffers to be raised at least --  
13 at least 30 feet to protect the health of all  
14 bodies of water and streams. These buffers must be  
15 at least 100 feet wide around the streams and any  
16 other bodies of water such as their ponds. My  
17 brother, my cousin, many of us have ponds on our  
18 land. We must have buffers of 100 feet wide around  
19 these.

20 The South Carolina Department of Natural  
21 Resources wrote on May the 14th to Mr. Eddy that  
22 after inspecting our property, he saw that there  
23 was a need for silt fences or silt barriers, which  
24 should be installed prior to any activity of this  
25 mining process. This is to protect the waterway.



1 It also said that land clearing should not begin  
2 until the sediment has been established -- a  
3 sediment basin.

4 As I'm running out of time, I will cut quickly  
5 to the last part of this, which I believe has been  
6 said, but I think it's very important. And I also  
7 wanted to say to Annie: Thank you for eliminating  
8 the hundred years and cutting back. They should go  
9 back, for permitting, in a 50-year or a 20-year  
10 basis, not 100 years.

11 Can Luck Stone Quarry guarantee they will  
12 follow our recommendations, and if not, then who  
13 are we to call? We want this business to be held  
14 accountable. We want this project to be  
15 transparent, and we want this process to be  
16 responsibly monitored. Thank you.

17 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Randall. Thank you, so much.

18 Now I would like to call on Pelham Lyles, who I  
19 believe is there at the school.

20 MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, she's coming to the microphone  
21 now.

22 MS. MOYE: Okay.

23 MS. LYLES: Hi. Thank you for allowing me up here. As  
24 a local historian, I've been concerned about  
25 archeological sites and -- and the historic

1 structures. But also I see that the Blair-Vaughn  
2 Stagecoach House has been included now for  
3 monitoring for seismic conditions, what could  
4 happen to the foundation. There will be a pre-  
5 blast survey done on that house so that ensuing  
6 cracks in the foundation or anything else will --  
7 can be attributed to whatever, and I appreciate  
8 that. But I think there are a lot of houses that  
9 may be slightly out of that distance that's -- with  
10 the first pit.

11 Now, there are two other pits that will be  
12 planned in the future, and will there be separate  
13 permits on that kind of thing? There'll be houses  
14 that will be affected by those. There are houses  
15 that are just outside that -- that distance that's  
16 required to protect them. But I'm -- I'm glad that  
17 you are doing a study because that's a National  
18 Register house that I helped to do the restoration  
19 on, and I -- I'm glad to see it will be protected  
20 in that way. And hopefully, their well will be  
21 protected, also.

22 But I would like to see that other houses will  
23 be included in this and that this will be done  
24 previous to each developing stage of the  
25 development of the quarry. Thank you.

1 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Lyles. I would now like to  
2 call on Brandon Jones on behalf of the Catawba  
3 Riverkeeper Foundation. Mr. Jones, I'm not sure --

4 MR. JONES: Yes. Can you hear me?

5 MS. MOYE: Yes. You're virtual, okay. Thank you very  
6 much. Please go ahead. Oh.

7 MR. JONES: Great.

8 MS. MOYE: And I forgot to -- I also forgot: Please  
9 remember to state your name, and spell it for the  
10 court reporter.

11 MR. JONES: Certainly.

12 MS. MOYE: Thank you.

13 MR. JONES: My name is Brandon Jones, B-r-a-n-d-o-n, J-  
14 o-n-e-s. I'm the Catawba Riverkeeper at the  
15 Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. Thank you all for  
16 the opportunity to comment on this proposed mining  
17 permit, and we definitely -- I definitely  
18 appreciate the hybrid format. The Catawba  
19 Riverkeeper Foundation is a member-funded  
20 environmental nonprofit who educates and advocates  
21 for the protection of the Catawba-Wateree River and  
22 all its tributaries. The organization represents  
23 over 6,000 active members across 26 counties and  
24 two states to rely on the watershed for drinking  
25 water, recreation, and electricity.

1                   This site is located at the headwaters of  
2                   Dutchman's Creek, a tributary of the Catawba and  
3                   Lake Wateree. Streams on the site were identified  
4                   as impaired for fecal bacteria back in 2003 and  
5                   then a TMDL, total maximum daily load, was  
6                   published in 2011 by DHEC. Since then,  
7                   unfortunately, the creek has not improved to meet  
8                   recreational standards. Samples taken at the  
9                   nearest downstream site about four miles away --  
10                  this site was established back in 2019 -- showed  
11                  averages over the recreational criteria and will  
12                  most likely be listed as "impaired" during the next  
13                  cycle.

14                  While, hopefully, the mine is not a source of  
15                  bacteria -- unless they have a failing septic  
16                  system -- they will most likely increase turbidity,  
17                  both from the discharge and from the runoff. That  
18                  increase in turbidity can slow the natural  
19                  degradation of harmful bacteria from -- from UV  
20                  radiation. And the site makes up about 12 percent  
21                  of the TMDL watershed, which would definitely  
22                  increase the total impervious area and runoff  
23                  within that area -- within that site.

24                  Dutchman's Creek, which begins on the site, is  
25                  also a tributary of Lake Wateree. The lake is

1 currently facing water quality challenges primarily  
2 due to changes in land use and development. The  
3 cove of Dutchman's Creek where it meets Lake  
4 Wateree is listed as "impaired" for pH, chlorophyl  
5 A, and phosphorus.

6 However, should DHEC decide to permit this, we  
7 would certainly recommend enhancing the gation  
8 measures. We would echo SCDNR with the 100-foot  
9 buffer, as opposed to the 75; increase monitoring  
10 wells; and also special attention to the fish  
11 species of concern within Dutchman's Creek. A good  
12 way to address that and the turbidity issues would  
13 be to alter the proposed discharge limits.

14 Downstream monitoring reveals an average turbidity  
15 in Dutchman's Creek of about 20 NTUs. And so we  
16 would recommend that be used as the proposed  
17 maximum discharge for turbidity on their wastewater  
18 and -- or on their wastewater discharge.

19 For the stormwater basin, we recommend going  
20 above state minimums to at least size for the 25-  
21 year storm, and we'd also recommend using  
22 stormwater catchments designed for phosphorus  
23 reduction, given the -- the nature of the  
24 phosphorus and algal blooms in the receiving stream  
25 down -- about 11 miles downstream at Lake Wateree.

1           We're also very concerned with impacts to the  
2           drinking water. As mentioned in the public hearing  
3           -- or, sorry -- public meeting, we recommend that  
4           no storage of hazardous materials or washouts be  
5           used within that public water-well protection zone,  
6           particularly underground storage tanks and any kind  
7           of gasoline or diesel fuels. Thank you very much.

8   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Jones.

9   UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is there any way to turn the volume  
10           up?

11   MS. MOYE: Next, we want to call on Virginia Pierce, who  
12           I believe is there in person.

13   UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can you turn the mic up or adjust  
14           it so we can hear better?

15   MS. ELLENBERG: I was going to say --

16   UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you.

17   MS. ELLENBERG: So I -- I believe this microphone is  
18           more about hooking into the virtual meeting, so --

19   MS. MOYE: Kristy, I believe there's -- we have a Ms.  
20           Pierce there. I see her coming down the aisle now.

21   MS. ELLENBERG: I apologize for that, but adding another  
22           microphone would give us a lot of feedback.

23   MS. MOYE: I would remind you, Ms. Pierce, to, please,  
24           state your name and spell it for the court  
25           reporter.

1 MS. PIERCE: It's Virginia Pierce. Virginia, like the  
2 state and --

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you talk louder --

4 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: -- and into the microphone,  
6 please?

7 MS. ELLENBERG: So, again, the microphone is actually  
8 helping us connect into the virtual meeting. So we  
9 need to -- we're -- we're more than six feet apart  
10 from the speaker. If we'd just make sure we -- we  
11 have to use a really loud voice, Ms. Pierce. Thank  
12 you.

13 MS. PIERCE: Is this the microphone?

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No. It doesn't work.

15 MS. ELLENBERG: It's --

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Don't worry about it.

17 MS. ELLENBERG: It works for the virtual meeting, but  
18 just -- we need to be able to kind of yell for the  
19 -- them. Thank you.

20 MS. PIERCE: Virginia Pierce, V-i-r-g-i-n-i-a, P-i-e-r-  
21 c-e. I forgot what the last -- second part was,  
22 but . . .

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Speak up.

24 MS. ELLENBERG: Just speak as loudly as you can, and --  
25 and -- thank you.

1 MS. PIERCE: This is as loud as I can go. I live in a  
2 National Register historic house, and a lot of the  
3 literature -- there's some follow-up literature  
4 with the cultural resources reports and that sort  
5 of thing, and everything says I'm more than half a  
6 mile from any impact areas. And when I'm trying to  
7 measure the maps that were provided in this  
8 PowerPoint slide and the reports, what I could see  
9 is: I'm up to 2100 feet on the western boundary,  
10 and that's where the future impact area is -- which  
11 I appreciate the explanation today, that they would  
12 have to do another permit.

13 There's so many -- this is just one of my  
14 concerns about our historic home. We think it's  
15 200 years old now. By the time they get to this  
16 area, it could be 250 to 300, if it survives that  
17 long. And if you're not trying to protect  
18 something that's really unique and valuable in our  
19 county, you know, what are we going to protect? So  
20 it's a really interesting place. I invite you to  
21 come by and see it.

22 And there's light pollution that are concerns.  
23 I don't want 24-hour light pollution. We see  
24 stars. it's really beautiful out where we live.

25 And all down the line, everybody's done a



1 great job of air quality, our wells, all of that  
2 sort of thing. So I'm concerned with -- I  
3 appreciate everybody else's input because I'm  
4 concerned with everything everybody else has said.  
5 And I really appreciate Representative McDaniel and  
6 how you heard our concerns and showed up here  
7 tonight. Thanks.

8 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Pierce. And next I would like  
9 to call on someone who I believe is calling in  
10 tonight, and I don't want to butcher the name, but  
11 it's Carol Aguilar. Ms. Aguilar, if you are  
12 joining us by phone, you can \*6 to unmute your --  
13 your line.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. MOYE: Okay. We will come back to Ms. Aguilar in  
16 case she's having trouble connecting with us. And  
17 I will go to John Lyles, who I believe is joining  
18 us virtually.

19 MR. LYLES: Yes. John Lyles, J-o-h-n, L-y-l-e-s. I'm  
20 the landowner to the west. My border was right  
21 against the -- where the pit -- Phase 1 pit is, and  
22 most of my concerns continue to be about  
23 groundwater, mostly groundwater quantity and what's  
24 going to happen in the future, because based on  
25 what has been issued by Luck Stone and their S&ME

1           company that did their work for Chester -- was  
2           100,000 gallons a day being used, up to 12 1/2  
3           years, until they could get enough makeup water  
4           from the dewatering in the pit itself. And I  
5           assume there's a way they're going to get that  
6           water. It was explained in the last meeting that  
7           it would be due to rain and collection like that,  
8           but actually, they're going to need a lot of water,  
9           according to what they're writing in the other  
10          quarry reports. So I'm curious how they're going  
11          to get that water, and if it is going to be a well,  
12          none of that has been in any of the documents in  
13          this application. There's nothing about their  
14          well, the production well, makeup water well.

15                 One of the reasons I'm concerned is that I  
16          have a -- a pond that's 900 feet from the pit, and  
17          that pond is not going to last. It just has a  
18          shallow aquifer fed from seeps and springs. Those  
19          are going to dry up when that pit's going and also  
20          during that drawdown, possibly just from the  
21          production -- the makeup well.

22                 In addition to that, the -- another concern is  
23          for the Ridgeway water well. It's only 2100-and  
24          some-odd feet -- I can't remember what I measured  
25          but -- from the future area. It is 3200 feet from

1           the pit, but the actual edge of the Ridgewater --  
2           or the Ridgeway well protection zone overlaps -- it  
3           overlaps into that future area, so that's a concern  
4           for that.

5           And I was looking at the new hydrological  
6           report that came out -- the groundwater modeling  
7           report that came out July 19th, and that was really  
8           focused on Ridgeway's concerns. As a matter of  
9           fact, it only talks about the drawdown of water for  
10          the Ridgeway well, about it being 15 feet in the 40  
11          years.

12          However, it doesn't address any of the  
13          adjacent landowners' wells. For instance, Willie  
14          Qualls' well, which is just -- Willie Qualls, Q-u-  
15          a-l-l-s -- is just to the east of the quarry land,  
16          and he's predicted to have a 50-foot drawdown of  
17          water in his well in 40 years. And my sister  
18          Josephine, who's also going to, maybe, comment, she  
19          has got a well on the northwest corner, and it's  
20          going to have a 100-foot drawdown in 40 years.  
21          Well, that's the depth of her well, so that one's  
22          definitely a goner.

23          And so I'm concerned that these drawdown  
24          predictions aren't talking to any of the  
25          landowners. We're only addressing Ridgeway, and

1           yet the landowners' wells are going to dry up based  
2           on these models. But the model isn't complete.  
3           It's missing calibration wells. There's no  
4           measurements that were done to produce water and  
5           actually -- accurately calibrate their model.

6           The model -- I'll quickly finish this. The  
7           model was based on Chester and Enoree, South  
8           Carolina models. And because it's lacking that, I  
9           would like to see Luck -- or, rather, DHEC to delay  
10          the approval of this application until that well is  
11          drilled and they have an accurate drawdown  
12          measurement, or at least a drawdown model based on  
13          real pumping in that area. So thank you for the  
14          chance to speak.

15   MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Lyles. Next, I will  
16          call on Robert Seibels, who I believe is there in  
17          person with you, Kristy.

18   MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, Donna. Mr. Seibels is coming up  
19          now.

20   MS. MOYE: Okay. Remind Mr. Seibels to, please, spell  
21          your name for the court reporter.

22   MR. SEIBELS: Will do. My name's Robert Seibels. It's  
23          R-o-b-e-r-t, S-e-i-b-e-l-s. We're going to have a  
24          little redundancy here, folks, because I'm going to  
25          talk about water, too.

1           I'm president of Vinsburrow Timber Farm, LLC.  
2           It's a family-owned, 326-acre tract that lies just  
3           west of Barber Road, adjacent to and behind the  
4           National Historic Register house known as the  
5           "Stagecoach House"; we just heard about it. Our  
6           property, which extends eastward towards Simpson,  
7           past the railroad crossing at Jewel Drive, includes  
8           a home on Merlin Drive -- which is actually our  
9           driveway -- three water wells, all shallow wells,  
10          and a pond.

11          My brother, sister, and I are very troubled by  
12          the threat posed to our water resources from the  
13          proposed Luck Stone Quarry. Created in 1980, our  
14          two-acre, spring-fed pond and one of our wells are  
15          less than 6,000 feet from the pit of the proposed  
16          Phase 1 mine site, and only 3,000 feet from the  
17          future impact area. The springs that feed our pond  
18          have run continuously for the past 40-plus years,  
19          even in severe drought, providing a constant water  
20          level in the pond.

21          Although they have apparently not confirmed  
22          the source, Luck Stone estimates that they will use  
23          100,000 gallons of water per day for the first 12  
24          years of operation. That is far more water than  
25          the towns of Winnsboro, Ridgeway, and all the

1 private wells in the vicinity collectively use in a  
2 day. That's a lot of water. There's only one  
3 source for that water: new wells that Luck intends  
4 to drill on the mine site. Despite their  
5 assurances, how do we know that withdrawing that  
6 unprecedented amount of water for more than a  
7 decade will not adversely affect our pond and  
8 wells? We've been promised an intense,  
9 transparent, and responsive monitoring program.  
10 Even if that becomes a reality, we would like to  
11 know how Luck Stone or DHEC is going to revive a  
12 spring-fed pond with no spring.

13 Once Luck Stone receives their permit to  
14 operate for 100 years -- that's a -- I can't get my  
15 head around how -- how -- how many years that is,  
16 and I don't think anybody out there can, either --  
17 we believe our concerns will be swept under the rug  
18 forever. The next four generations of surrounding  
19 landowners will be powerless to prevent Luck Stone  
20 from doing whatever they please behind their berms.  
21 Thank you.

22 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Seibels. It did look to me  
23 like maybe you were reading your comments. Please  
24 feel free to leave those with the court reporter  
25 before you leave tonight, and she'll make sure that

1           that is included with the transcript of the  
2           hearing. We -- we have you recorded, but if you  
3           wanted to leave that hard copy to assist her with  
4           the transcription, we encourage you to do so.

5           Next, I would like to call on James Kilgo,  
6           who, I believe, is joining us by phone or online.

7 MS. KILGO: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 MS. MOYE: Yes. I can. Thank you, so much. Please  
9           remember to spell your name for the court reporter,  
10          and go ahead.

11 MS. KILGO: Yes, certainly. It's James Kilgo,  
12          J-a-m-e-s, K-i-l-g-o. I'm with the South Carolina  
13          Rural Water Association. I am the source water  
14          protection specialist for SCRWA, and I am tasked  
15          with working with rural water utilities to ensure  
16          the safe and effective distribution of water,  
17          especially as it concerns potential contamination.  
18          So this is certainly something that I heard off --  
19          secondhand from someone and am very interested to  
20          know a couple different things. What -- was there  
21          a environmental assessment completed for this  
22          particular property? I did -- I was able to review  
23          the data and info provided by S&ME, and would this  
24          data and the conclusions found stand up against an  
25          environmental assessment in comparison?

1 I am also conducting a -- a watershed-based  
2 plan through EPA 319 and Drinking Water State  
3 Revolving Fund through SCDHEC and for the Lake  
4 Wateree watersheds and am particularly interested  
5 and concerned about Dutchman's Creek exposure to  
6 this. And I would suggest that Luck Stone, if  
7 approved for this, become a committed partner for  
8 the Lake Wateree watershed-based plan for which I  
9 am the lead partner on this with a number of other  
10 committed stakeholders within the area. And as  
11 everybody -- as a number of folks mentioned, Lake  
12 Wateree is currently experiencing significant water  
13 quality issues as is, impairments and so forth,  
14 facing a TMDL as well. And I think with the  
15 addition of a mine, this certainly serves to  
16 exacerbate maybe some of the issues that we have,  
17 especially in the context of the increased  
18 frequency of extreme weather events, whether they  
19 be hundred-year floods or even thousand-year  
20 floods.

21 So that's all I've got. Thank you.

22 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Kilgo, and thank you for the  
23 birds in the background. That's a nice added touch  
24 that we don't normally have.

25 Okay. Now I would like to call on -- I



1 believe there's a couple there in person, Jim and  
2 Eleanor Parrish. Kristy, I'm not sure if one or  
3 both of them wanted to speak.

4 MS. ELLENBERG: Okay. It looks like Ms. Parrish is  
5 coming.

6 (Technical disturbance.)

7 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am. Let me -- let's take one  
8 moment, Donna. We're going through the names that  
9 have preregistered to speak, and we're going to --  
10 we're getting some feedback from some who are  
11 unmuting. We're taking note of those who also were  
12 kind of raising their hand, and we're going to also  
13 have kind of that open call for others who didn't  
14 preregister to speak; is that a good summary,  
15 Donna?

16 MS. MOYE: Yes. That is correct. Thank you, Kristy.

17 MS. ELLENBERG: Okay. Ms. Parrish.

18 MS. PARRISH: Yes.

19 MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you.

20 MS. PARRISH: My name is Eleanor Thomas Parrish, and I  
21 grew up in Ridgeway. My parents were Laura and Bob  
22 Thomas, and they were both mayors of Ridgeway.  
23 Ridgeway was a great place to grow up. I'm also  
24 concerned with some of the things that you are  
25 concerned with: those with the air quality, the

1 water, the Ridgeway well, and hearing all of you  
2 that are living in that vicinity about your wells  
3 also.

4 I -- we also have -- my father's family goes  
5 way back to the 1800s, and Dr. John Peyre Thomas  
6 moved to Fairfield County in the 1800s from  
7 Charleston to escape malaria. He wanted to bring  
8 his family to a healthy environment, so he settled  
9 in Fairfield and near Ridgeway. He built Mount  
10 Hope Plantation, which is not too far from this  
11 site. And, again, he wanted a healthy environment  
12 for his family. One of the sons ended up starting  
13 the -- Isaac Couturier Thomas started the Thomas  
14 Company in Ridgeway.

15 But, again, Ridgeway was a wonderful place to  
16 grow up. We still have some property that is near  
17 the mining site, and we're concerned with that, of  
18 course. There are 240 acres there, and we're  
19 concerned about the devaluation of the property and  
20 also water and air quality. And, of course, we're  
21 concerned -- we do not own Mount Hope anymore, but  
22 we're concerned about that historical building --  
23 house -- also, and with the blasting in that area.

24 But, anyway, thank you. We did not get to the  
25 other meetings, but thank you for letting us speak.

1           And, as I said, it was a wonderful place to grow  
2           up, and we just want Ridgeway to continue the way  
3           it is. I grew up with a town well and a water  
4           tank, and so I know the importance of water to  
5           Ridgeway and to our neighbors. Thank you.

6   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Parrish. Did Mr. Parrish also  
7           wish to speak?

8   MS. ELLENBERG: He's -- he's deferring, no, so . . .

9   MS. MOYE: Oh, okay. Just wanted to make sure that we  
10           didn't ignore the other half of that team there.  
11           So, thank you.

12   MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, can I add one more note? We --  
13           we have had --

14   MS. MOYE: Yes.

15   MS. ELLENBERG: -- some people speak who haven't spelled  
16           their name. We do have those forms for people who  
17           registered when they were coming in and some who  
18           registered online, so I think we're -- the -- those  
19           we've heard from thus far, we do have a spelling of  
20           your name. So rest assured we can -- we can help  
21           match that up with the court reporter as well.

22           Okay, Donna, thank you.

23   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Kristy. And we also have a few  
24           people who have joined us and who have raised their  
25           hand or tried to unmute to speak. Please note that

1 right now we are hearing from those who  
2 preregistered to speak via our web page or who had  
3 indicated in person that they planned to speak  
4 tonight. And we will get to those who are raising  
5 their hands now just shortly.

6 So we have two more people who have  
7 preregistered, and so now I will call on Pamela  
8 Greenlaw. I believe Ms. Greenlaw is there in  
9 person, and we'll give her a moment to get to the  
10 microphone.

11 MS. GREENLAW: Yes. Can you pass me by, and I can come  
12 back?

13 MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, Ms. Greenlaw has asked if you can  
14 come back to her a little later in the night, so  
15 let's -- let's keep going for now, okay?

16 MS. GREENLAW: Thank you.

17 MS. MOYE: Okay.

18 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. MOYE: Next we have Cal Harrison. I believe Mr.  
20 Harrison is there in person.

21 MS. ELLENBERG: Donna, he's on the way now.

22 MR. HARRISON: Thank you. I'm Cal Harrison from  
23 Ridgeway, South Carolina, C-a-l, H-a-r-r-i-s-o-n.  
24 I wanted to stand in opposition to this permit.  
25 And what I wanted to talk to you today, I think --

1 really, I hope, DHEC -- everyone at DHEC will take  
2 this to heart that I -- I think that you have a  
3 credibility issue that needs to be addressed. I  
4 attended the last meeting. It was very civil, but  
5 my impression leaving that meeting was that DHEC  
6 seemed like a PR agency rather than a regulatory  
7 agency for this mining company.

8 And I'll -- don't have much time. Years ago,  
9 I used to be a reporter. I worked with a guy named  
10 Russ Shearer, who was chief of the Bureau of Water  
11 Pollution Control. He was a very trustworthy  
12 fellow. Whenever I interviewed him he would always  
13 provide caveats, you know. He would say, "Yes.  
14 These are the regulations. Yes, this is -- is how  
15 it should be, but, no, we can't guarantee -- you  
16 know, it's not a perfect world. We can't guarantee  
17 how a computer model will actually act in the real  
18 world." And I really respected that, but what I  
19 heard at this last meeting were statements like --  
20 that there will be no impact on Dutchman Creek for  
21 a hundred years. I don't understand how anyone can  
22 credibly make a statement like that.

23 Secondly, there were examples given of other  
24 mines in the state and how well-run they are and  
25 how we shouldn't be concerned because every --

1           because they're great examples. I didn't hear a  
2           single example of a mine that's sitting right next  
3           to a -- a community well water supply and right  
4           next to a creek that runs into a lake that we know,  
5           and have heard from many experts, is being  
6           impacted.

7                        Lastly, and -- and this is, I think, most  
8           concerning. As I learned after that meeting, a  
9           representative of the company spoke to a town  
10          official with Ridgeway and offered to ask --  
11          offered to take out an insurance policy on their  
12          well in case something happened. And to me that  
13          means that they themselves don't really have the  
14          faith in this process, and so they're -- they're  
15          basically trying to cover themselves. And by --  
16          by doing that, I think they're really, basically,  
17          selling DHEC out because they themselves don't have  
18          the confidence that they can protect the  
19          environment.

20                       I called on the advice of Rob Devlin from  
21          DHEC, I called the -- the South Carolina Rural  
22          Water Authority. I talked to James Kilgo, who just  
23          spoke. I asked him the same questions: "Is -- is  
24          there a potential for impact on Dutchman's Creek?"

25                       He said, "Of course, there is."

1            "Is there a potential for the mining activity  
2            to pollute the well water?"

3            "Of course, there is."

4            I -- I just want to point out that -- that  
5            DHEC had a credibility problem back in the 1990s  
6            through the Pinewood hazardous waste dump in  
7            Sumter. What was determined through that, and DHEC  
8            finally admitted, that there needed to be location  
9            standards for those such facilities that, as far as  
10           I can tell, there are no location standards. There  
11           should be. This -- this could've -- have been  
12           addressed before it actually came to this point,  
13           because there are serious environmental things in  
14           question.

15           So before you make a decision, I think that  
16           you should address adopting location standards for  
17           new mines, including this one. I think that Mr.  
18           Kilgo's water -- watershed basin study should be  
19           completed so that we can draw some conclusions  
20           about how to protect Lake Wateree. And, thirdly,  
21           we need some source water protection legislation in  
22           the hands of DHEC, because there -- it was pointed  
23           out that there are no local controls over source  
24           water protection. That's because everyone expects  
25           DHEC should have the -- the authority and should be

1 enforcing those controls, not local governments.  
2 No one would expect that they would have to protect  
3 they're -- this. That -- everyone thinks that  
4 that's DHEC's responsibility.

5 So I just think that --

6 MS. MOYE: Mr. Harrison?

7 MR. HARRISON: Yes. I -- I'm finishing up -- that --

8 MS. MOYE: Okay.

9 MR. HARRISON: -- that I would appreciate it if you  
10 would invest -- investigate all three of these  
11 things that I've mentioned. And the easiest way, I  
12 think, to restore your credibility, though, would  
13 be just to deny this permit.

14 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much. I just want to make sure  
15 that we're giving everyone a fair opportunity to  
16 make their comments tonight. We have a lot of  
17 people who are interested, and we want to hear  
18 their comments. So thank you so much for that, Mr.  
19 Harrison.

20 I would like to go back for a moment to Mr.  
21 McKinney to make sure, if he has joined us, if he's  
22 able to unmute his line or join us virtually?  
23 Kevin McKinney?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. MOYE: Please let the record reflect that Mr.





1 comment. When it is your turn, I will call on you  
2 by either your name or the last four digits of the  
3 phone number you're calling from.

4 I'll give Katherine a moment now to note those  
5 who are attending virtually and indicating they  
6 would like to comment. And I would like to  
7 reiterate that DHEC staff are here to listen to  
8 your comments about the proposed Fairfield Quarry.  
9 Answers or responses to questions will not be  
10 provided tonight. All comments made during this  
11 hearing are being recorded. And if you are unable  
12 to complete your comments within the allotted time,  
13 you may still submit them in writing through the  
14 end of the public comment period on Friday, August  
15 20th of 2021.

16 We will now begin calling on those of you who  
17 have decided to make a comment. And first up, I  
18 have Josephine Lyles. Ms. Lyles, I believe you are  
19 joining us online?

20 MS. LYLES: Yes. My --

21 MS. MOYE: Thank you.

22 MS. LYLES: -- name's spelled Josephine, J-o-s-e-p-h-i-  
23 n-e; last name, L-y-l-e-s. I am a landowner on  
24 Barber Road in Fairfield County. I do have a  
25 tenant house, and it is -- the well is within a

1 half-a-mile boundary around the proposed pit. So  
2 it's likely to be the first lowered water table if  
3 this happens. My well is 1,750 feet from the edge  
4 of the pit. I looked at some of Luck Stone's  
5 reports and maps, and first of all, they had  
6 mislocated my map where my well was, so I -- I  
7 pointed that out in my report to DHEC.

8 Should this occur, which hopefully doesn't, I  
9 would like to have a monthly monitoring --  
10 monitoring report, and if there's any drop in the  
11 water in their deep well, which is near my  
12 property, my well, I would like to have a monthly  
13 monitoring report. And I would like to know how  
14 soon they can help my current tenant out should his  
15 well go dry. Are they going to bring it in as an  
16 emergency, and will they replace my well?

17 That's what I have to say.

18 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Lyles.

19 Next, I would like to go back to the school  
20 and call on Pamela Greenlaw.

21 MS. ELLENBERG: Okay.

22 MS. GREENLAW: Okay. Hello. My name is Pamela  
23 Greenlaw, P-a-m-e-l-a, G-r-e-e-n-l-a-w. I'm going  
24 to reiterate a little bit, but I -- I might be a  
25 little more colorful. A lot of the things that I'm

1           noting in this permit that DHEC really does need to  
2           focus on is that there aren't -- we -- we see in  
3           the illustrations that there are monitors -- wells  
4           for monitoring. We don't see any location of air  
5           monitors. DHEC should require those. And DHEC  
6           should collect all that information because if a  
7           facility concentration rises above the National Air  
8           -- Ambient Air Quality Standard offsite, that has  
9           to be captured. That's going to affect people's  
10          health. I challenge model assumptions without  
11          DHEC's installed monitors and a track record  
12          developed.

13                 The predicted facility concentration --  
14          "predicted," we don't know what that's based on.  
15          It -- it seems to be plucked -- I'm sorry to say it  
16          -- out of the air.

17                 As far as the concerns of the community that  
18          air and water are going to be affected, this  
19          appears to me to be a taking of property, taking  
20          people's ability to have clean water, clean air.  
21          There's no -- a fugitive -- I already talked about  
22          that.

23                 I -- I oppose this mine on many of the grounds  
24          that Mr. Harrison brought up, and I concur with the  
25          suggestions that I've heard this evening from

1           everybody about what DHEC needs to require.  
2           Certainly, a 100-year permit -- I don't know. Are  
3           you authorized -- and I can't answer that. Are you  
4           authorized to give anybody a 100-year permit?  
5           We're all going to be dead. And -- and hate to,  
6           you know -- someone said that it was four  
7           generations. Actually, it's five generations  
8           before your children could come before DHEC to say  
9           anything about this. And by the way, a -- a little  
10          sidetrack here: The Nuclear Regulatory  
11          Commission's doing the same kind of side-stepping  
12          and giving long permits, which are really an  
13          environmental justice issue because they are  
14          denying you the right to speak to these agencies  
15          directly. They're taking that -- they've -- this  
16          is an attempt to take that away with these  
17          extremely long permits. So, please, do not give  
18          them a long permit; ten -- ten years max. They  
19          must prove themselves trustworthy. Thank you very  
20          much.

21   MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw. Next, I'd  
22            like to call on Donny Laird, who I believe is  
23            joining us online.

24   MR. LAIRD: I decline to comment. I'm just listening to  
25            gain knowledge, and I'll be in touch with DHEC at

1 -- through -- online.

2 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Laird. I know your  
3 daughters quite well, so we're glad to have you  
4 with us tonight.

5 Next, I'd like to call on Eben Stevenson, who  
6 I believe is online as well.

7 MR. STEVENSON: My --

8 MS. MOYE: Yes. Mr. --

9 MR. STEVENSON: My name is -- my name is Eben Stevenson.  
10 That's E-b-e-n, S-t-e-v-e-n-s-o-n. Now, my  
11 thoughts on this is -- certainly Luck Stone is not  
12 a publicly traded company, is my understanding.  
13 This is a -- a family-owned business. They're  
14 making all these promises they are going to go down  
15 a hundred years, and that just sticks out to me as  
16 crazy, like other people have said, but I won't  
17 repeat that.

18 The other problem I have is: I have looked at  
19 the gold mine that's on Highway 34 also, and toured  
20 it when it was in operation. They also had -- were  
21 going to reclaim this, and it was going to be a  
22 beautiful lake with houses built -- built around  
23 it. All right. A geologist took us on the tour  
24 and said it will fill up with water, be a beautiful  
25 lake. Right now it's got pine trees on it, a

1 chain-link fence around it, and another company,  
2 Kennecott, has bought it. And it's locked up and  
3 nobody can get in it.

4 Other examples of what's going on and what's  
5 being policed in South Carolina is: We have got  
6 Lee County in Bishopville that's taking garbage  
7 from New York City. We've got Barnwell that's  
8 taking atomic waste. And I don't know who's  
9 policing it or who's supposed to be policing it,  
10 but evidently somebody's not.

11 The other problem I've got is: Economically,  
12 the I-77 corridor from Columbia to Charlotte is  
13 going to -- in the next 20 years, it's going to be  
14 huge. And that land is going to be very, very  
15 valuable and will be very valuable for other types  
16 of industry to come in there without all these  
17 environmental issues. And economically, I would  
18 think that most of this money is -- yeah, I think  
19 Luck Stone is a Virginia-based company. Is -- is  
20 South Carolina and Fairfield County -- are we  
21 getting any monetary gain from this mine at all  
22 except having the environmental problems?

23 And that's all I have to say. But thank you  
24 so much for hearing me. Thank you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bravo.

1 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Stevenson, and I -- I  
2 apologize for butchering your name.

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

4 MS. MOYE: Next, we have Priscilla Preston online, I  
5 believe, who would like to make a comment.

6 MS. PRESTON: Yes. Thank you. My name is Priscilla  
7 Preston, P-r-i-s-c-i-l-l-a, P-r-e-s-t-o-n. And I'd  
8 like to talk about the -- the water problems  
9 associated with this quarry, not only the -- the  
10 water that could be lost, the ground water, but  
11 also the violation -- possible violations of the  
12 state water quality standards, which are intended  
13 to maintain and improve all surface waters to a  
14 level to provide for the survival of indigenous  
15 aquatic communities, as well as providing  
16 recreation in and on the water. And it sounds like  
17 recreation in general is not going to be as -- as  
18 pleasant as it -- as it is now if this quarry is --  
19 is built there. It could have significant impacts  
20 for a hundred years on -- on surface water. It's  
21 -- it's very close to the public water well that  
22 supplies most of the water for the Town of  
23 Ridgeway, and it's marked for future use -- the --  
24 the proposed project areas marked for future use  
25 are closer than the mandated public well protection



1 zone distance of 2,180 feet.

2 So for all of those reasons and for all of the  
3 reasons stated tonight, I ask that DHEC deny the  
4 permit.

5 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Preston. Kristy, do we have  
6 anyone there with you at the school who has  
7 indicated they would like to make a comment?

8 MS. ELLENBERG: I do, Donna.

9 MR. THOMPSON: Hello. My name's Ben Thompson, B-e-n, T-  
10 h-o-m-p-s-o-n. I'm with Luck Companies. Thank you  
11 all for coming this evening and voicing your  
12 perspectives, your questions, your -- your thoughts  
13 on the project.

14 I did hear a couple things that I just wanted  
15 to make note of on record, which -- which may  
16 benefit some of the orientation on this project.  
17 One was from SCELP, who was talking about a citizen  
18 panel board. That is not something that is unusual  
19 to us. We do that at many sites. Glad to go on  
20 record here for inclusion, if DHEC would like to,  
21 as a condition in our application.

22 Another thing that I heard was South Carolina  
23 Rural Water -- I'm not sure -- Authority?  
24 Association? But -- but there was a comment about  
25 our participation, our part in the Lake Wateree

1 watershed conversation and ultimately maybe some  
2 regulations associated with that. We would be more  
3 than happy to partner on that, as well as the  
4 Catawba Riverkeepers. It's somewhat in keeping  
5 with our environmental ethic, so we're -- we work  
6 very heavily with the James River Association, the  
7 Ches Bay Foundation. All of that goes hand-in-hand  
8 with who we are and our environmental ethic.

9 I shared last time our -- our -- credentialed  
10 in Virginia as environmental excellence, which is  
11 the highest tier for an industry to partake in an  
12 award-type manner. And so we hold that -- that  
13 level of expectation upon ourselves. You-all  
14 should also hold us to that level of expectation.

15 There was a comment from the young lady, who,  
16 actually, I don't see right now, but -- worried  
17 about light escape bleeding onto other properties.  
18 Typically, we do not operate at night. That said,  
19 any lighting on our site will be downward-facing  
20 and directional to ensure no escape onto adjoining  
21 properties.

22 Another comment that came up several times was  
23 setbacks to water wetland areas. We'll be more  
24 than happy to go back and explore that and grow  
25 that as much as possible within our site. So right

1           now I think the -- the general expectation is 50  
2           feet. If we can go greater -- 100 feet, 150 feet  
3           -- we will do so within our application.

4           The -- the transparency comment, dust  
5           monitoring, future and ongoing water quality and --  
6           and quantity, all of that -- monitor wells, dust  
7           regulations, all of those things are captured in  
8           the regulatory environment. However, they all are  
9           also open-book, so that is public information.  
10          Anything we capture is -- is there for public  
11          consumption as desired. We can also include all  
12          those conversations in an ongoing fashion in a  
13          citizens' panel.

14          I'll wrap up. I -- I do want to say, though,  
15          please learn about our company. And we're more  
16          than happy to share in any conversation. Last time  
17          I gave out my phone number. Unfortunately, didn't  
18          get any calls; would love to get those calls.  
19          We'll also be here afterwards.

20          We are a really special company, and I know  
21          that sounds somewhat flip because I work for the  
22          company. But, seriously, this is a group, and  
23          there is a reason why I work for this group. It's  
24          important that you-all understand that and also  
25          understand that we do want to be, in the truest

1           sense of the word, a neighbor in the community, so  
2           thank you.

3   MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Thompson.

4   MS. ELLENBERG: I think there's some who are maybe  
5           interested in that phone number, Donna, if we can  
6           give a chance for Mr. Thompson to share that, and  
7           maybe we can write it down over here, as well.

8   MR. THOMPSON: Sure. Phone number is (804)784-6300.

9           That'll get you to our front desk. The last time I  
10          mentioned that my -- and my name's Ben Thompson, so  
11          you can certainly ask for me. We have a lot of  
12          people working on this project from a lot of  
13          different competencies. And so if you call in and  
14          you say, "I live in Fairfield County. I'm  
15          interested in the project, and my main interest is  
16          water," it may get routed to the water person, or  
17          it may get routed to me. Regardless, we will get  
18          you speaking with the right person that is the most  
19          knowledgeable in that area.

20   UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The number, again?

21   MR. MOYE: Thank you --

22   MS. YON: Ben, can you say that number one more time,  
23          please?

24   MR. THOMPSON: Sure can. (804)784-6300.

25   UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

2 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. It looks like I  
3 have called on everyone who wished to make a  
4 comment tonight. I will give a moment for anyone  
5 else who would like to make a comment to unmute  
6 their line or raise their hand.

7 MS. ELLENBERG: And, Donna, I think we have one more  
8 here.

9 MS. MOYE: Please just remember to state your name for  
10 the court reporter.

11 MS. COGGINS: Okay. I'll be short. My name is Kristi  
12 Coggins, K-r-i-s-t-i, C-o-g-g-i-n-s. I'm a new  
13 resident of Ridgeway from Blythewood, and we're  
14 probably three miles from this site. I've not  
15 heard the word "silicosis" mentioned. Silicosis is  
16 an airborne carcinogenic that is directly related  
17 to progressive, incurable lung cancer, birth  
18 defects. There's four different areas that it  
19 affects our youth, my children that are having  
20 children -- premature births, low birth weights,  
21 and obviously, heart disease.

22 All these things that we ingest -- we ingest  
23 the air every day. And last week we noticed all  
24 the smoke that came from the Oregon fires. I  
25 traveled, last Saturday, to Denver and went to the

1 Rocky Mountain National Forest, and it was covered  
2 with smoke. I know we're not talking about smoke,  
3 Luck. We're talking about cut granite dust that is  
4 ultra-fine and almost undetectable, maybe, by the  
5 eye. I'm concerned, and I oppose this permit.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Ms. Coggins, and thank  
8 you, Katherine. For those of you joining us  
9 virtually, you can see that Mr. Thompson's phone  
10 number is there on the screen if you did not get it  
11 earlier. It does look like we also had a Chris and  
12 Tina Cole or one or the other, who raised their  
13 hand.

14 MR. COLE: Hello. My name is Chris Cole; that's C-h-r-  
15 i-s, C-o-l-e. My wife and I moved to Winnsboro  
16 specifically for the solitude, and I would just  
17 kind of like to give you guys some bullet points as  
18 to how I or we feel about this.

19 Let's make no mistake. People are asking is  
20 the air quality going to be -- going to be  
21 impacted? Is the water quality going to be  
22 impacted? Light pollution? Noise Pollution? Road  
23 degradation? Seismic impact? And the answer to  
24 all of those questions is a resounding "Yes."

25 I certainly appreciate Mr. Thompson from Luck

1 Stone speaking with all of us, but I also  
2 understand that Mr. Thompson from Luck Stone is  
3 working for the company that wants to come into our  
4 community, and they -- they are driven by profit.  
5 They are not driven by the best interest of the  
6 community. They are not driven by maintaining the  
7 solitude of the community. And the idea of this in  
8 a community that we moved to, to enjoy life and  
9 enjoy stargazing, disgusts me.

10 I think we're better than this. I think our  
11 country is better than this, and I think we need to  
12 all adamantly say, "No. Not on our watch. Not for  
13 a hundred years. Not for a single decade." Thank  
14 you for the opportunity to let me speak.

15 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Cole. I do want to note that  
16 we do have several people who are raising their  
17 hand online, and I believe we also have some others  
18 there in person who would still like to make a  
19 comment, so we will continue on with those.  
20 Kristy, you have someone there who would like to  
21 make a comment?

22 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes, Donna. We have -- I think this is  
23 the -- the first of two hands I've seen. We'll  
24 look for some additional.

25 MS. MOYE: Okay. I would just remind you to please

1 state your name, and spell it for the court  
2 reporter.

3 MR. ZENO: Name is Mike Zeno, Z-e-n-o.

4 MS. ELLENBERG: I'm sorry. I was doing the --

5 MS. ZENO: Sorry.

6 MS. ZENO: -- mic wrong. You're -- you're up, Mike.

7 MR. ZENO: I'm up? All right.

8 MS. ELLENBERG: Start over again. Thank you.

9 MR. ZENO: My wife and I have been a resident of  
10 Fairfield County since 1992, and we moved here  
11 after I finished my military obligation because of  
12 the, again, peace, solitude. We just love it here,  
13 and it's been our home for a long time, obviously,  
14 and I'm opposed to this, all right?

15 As a physician, I'm aware of many of the  
16 problems that this type of company can potentially  
17 bring to this community. They're mining granite.  
18 Now, I'm definitely not a mining expert, obviously,  
19 but from -- if you mine granite, how much heavy  
20 metals are going to be exposed to our soil? our  
21 water? Lake Wateree? What about some of the  
22 radioactive materials that are involved with  
23 granite mining, okay? Uranium, radium, polonium.

24 So I'm opposed to this. I think our health is  
25 too important to risk anything with a company like



1           this. All this particulate matter for the poor  
2           asthmatics, the people with emphysema, cystic  
3           fibrosis, other lung diseases, I wouldn't trust it.  
4           And that's all I have to say. Thank you, very  
5           much, everybody.

6   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Zeno.

7   UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could we have his name?

8   MS. ELLENBERG: I'm sorry. It was -- it was Mike Zeno.

9           Is that right?

10   MS. MOYE: "ZEE-no."

11   MR. ZENO: "ZEE-no." Z-e-n-o.

12   MS. ELLENBERG: Z-e-n-o. And my -- my apologies. I was  
13           trying to make sure he was unmuted, and I  
14           accidentally muted for a second there right when he  
15           was speaking. So it's Mike Zeno, Z-e-n-o.

16   MS. MOYE: Okay. And I believe that you had indicated  
17           you had someone else there in person, Kristy?

18   MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. There is another.

19   MS. BROWN: My name is Harriet Brown, H-a-r-r-i-e-t, B-  
20           r-o-w-n. I live on Lake Wateree. As we found in  
21           Wateree Creek, what is supposed to happen doesn't  
22           always happen. And now we're dealing with a large  
23           sedimentation issue that we have to figure out how  
24           to take care of. I, too, am concerned about  
25           possible increasing and -- about possibly

1 increasing turbidity and/or sedimentation in both  
2 the creek and in Dutchman Creek -- both the stream  
3 and Dutchman Creek. My real question is: Who will  
4 pay for problems if they happen in Dutchman Creek  
5 because of Luck Stone?

6 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Brown. I do want to go back  
7 to those who are virtually indicating that they  
8 would like to make a comment. We are going to get  
9 to those who have not had the opportunity to speak,  
10 first.

11 So I would call on an individual; the last  
12 four digits of the phone number is 5978. If the  
13 last four digits of your phone number are 5978,  
14 please unmute your line by pressing \*6.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. MOYE: Okay. We can come back to that number. We  
17 also had a David Lews (as spoken).

18 MS. YON: Hang on, Donna. I think --

19 MR. STEVENSON: Hello?

20 MS. YON: -- they unmuted.

21 MR. STEVENSON: Hello?

22 MS. MOYE: Hi. Is -- who is this?

23 MR. STEVENSON: This is Dan Stevenson, D-a-n, S-t-e-v-e-  
24 n-s-o-n.

25 MS. MOYE: Thank you so --

1 MR. STEVENSON: And I wanted to comment of some concerns  
2 I have about the habitats of the monarch  
3 butterflies who come through Fairfield County.  
4 They are a species that there's been a lot of  
5 concern about right now. And the US Fish and  
6 Wildlife have not made them endangered yet, but  
7 they're only one step below that, and they've made  
8 their effort here to be toward conservation. And  
9 they say that companies that are working towards  
10 conservation here might have to enter into a  
11 national conservation agreement to work with that.

12 And the background on this is: Originally, it  
13 was just individuals doing this, but now the  
14 federal government and some companies have gotten  
15 involved, and they want to make this a -- a much  
16 bigger effort. And maybe -- and the University of  
17 Illinois is going to be involved, and then they  
18 want to set up some amateur conservationists to go  
19 around and check on -- on these places.

20 And I'm just wondering if -- has anybody ever  
21 contacted the -- the -- about the fish and wildlife  
22 -- either fish or wildlife -- to see if a  
23 conservation agreement is -- instructions -- what  
24 has to happen to make sure that these monarch  
25 butterflies who are losing ground because --

1           because their habitats are not being adequately  
2           maintained and hadn't been good or being looked at.

3   MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Stevenson.

4   MR. STEVENSON: I think -- I think it needs to be looked  
5           at. And this is a -- an issue that the -- the  
6           monarchs are in Ohio right now. They migrate up  
7           from New Mexico -- over the northern part of the  
8           United States. They're in Ohio now. They should  
9           be coming through Fairfield County in the very near  
10          future. So it's concerning about the -- you know,  
11          how they'll (technical disturbance) in Fairfield,  
12          or whether we will be doing the conservation  
13          efforts. And, also, where the habitat's concerned,  
14          are they going to be adequate where the -- where --  
15          you know, poisons and other chemicals could harm  
16          them.

17   MS. MOYE: Thank you so much for --

18   MR. STEVENSON: (Technical disturbance.)

19   MS. MOYE: Thank you so much for your comments, Mr.  
20          Stevenson. We -- we have recorded those, and I  
21          would like for Katherine to put up the slide,  
22          please, with the phone numbers. Certainly, Mr.  
23          Stevenson, that will be addressed in the response  
24          summary, but if you would like to speak to someone  
25          directly about that after tonight, we encourage you

1 to give us a call, and we'll be glad to talk with  
2 you more in length about that.

3 So we want to keep moving along, make sure we  
4 get to everybody. Kristy, did you have another  
5 person there who indicated they would like to  
6 comment?

7 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. Donna, we have a gentleman coming  
8 up now.

9 MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you so much.

10 MR. QUALLS: How y'all doing this evening? My name's  
11 Willie Qualls, and I live right there on Grace  
12 Lane, right near where they just bought that  
13 property. When I first moved up there --

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could you spell your name, please?

15 MS. ELLENBERG: Yes. I was going to say can we get your  
16 name? Could you spell --

17 MR. QUALLS: Willie Qualls. That's W-i-l-l-i-e, Q-u-a-  
18 l-l-s.

19 MS. ELLENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Qualls.

20 MR. QUALLS: I live right there on Grace Lane beside the  
21 new site. When I moved up there, every neighbor --  
22 excuse me -- come up there and talked to me. I  
23 ain't heard nothing from this new -- whatever  
24 they're doing over there, I have no clue. But the  
25 concerns I have -- I came home today. I seen

1 squirrel and deer. I got a pond, two wells,  
2 turkeys. I think they're going to send snakes over  
3 there to me and take away my animals. That's all I  
4 had to say.

5 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Qualls. I would like to  
6 reiterate we still do have some people who are  
7 raising their hands online. If you're raising your  
8 hand, we are noting down your name, and we'll call  
9 on you. If you just be patient with us, we  
10 appreciate that.

11 And we'll go straight on to David Lews (as  
12 spoken). Mr. Lews (as spoken), if you are still  
13 with us virtually, we will be glad to hear from you  
14 now.

15 MR. LEWIS: Yes, ma'am. My name is David Lewis, D-a-v-  
16 i-d, L-e-w-i-s. I live off of Barber Road next to  
17 the Lyles, the Seibels, and I've got Ms. Virginia  
18 in front of me.

19 My concern, as with all my neighbors, is about  
20 Luck. But my bigger concern is with DHEC with the  
21 mission statement that DHEC states, that they're to  
22 "improve the quality of life of all South  
23 Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health  
24 of the public and the environment."

25 It's utterly disgusting that's it's came this

1 far -- if you're for us, protecting us, that you  
2 would take it this far. Why -- you should've  
3 denied it a long time ago. I -- I oppose Luck  
4 coming here, but the bigger problem is: Why has it  
5 got this far? And I'd like some answers, but, you  
6 know, there probably won't be, but we'll find out.  
7 Thanks.

8 MS. MOYE: Thank you --

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Good question.

10 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much. I would ask you, please,  
11 to remain muted as we get through all the  
12 commenters. We'll remind you that our permit  
13 writers, Jeremy and Lance, are available to talk  
14 with you after tonight, if you would like. Their  
15 phone numbers are on the screen now. You can reach  
16 Jeremy at (803)898-7609, and Lance can be reached  
17 at area code (803)898-7220. We certainly do  
18 encourage you, if you have questions that you would  
19 like to discuss with someone, to please give us a  
20 call.

21 And we also have a recording of the meeting  
22 that was held a couple of weeks ago, I believe,  
23 that -- where there was question-and-answer period  
24 where some of those questions were answered. So a  
25 recording of that meeting is also posted on our

1 website for anyone that would like to go back and  
2 listen to it. We certainly appreciated hearing all  
3 the comments and questions then as much as we do  
4 tonight.

5 So it looks like we also have Susan Randall.  
6 Ms. Randall, I believe you had spoke earlier, but  
7 would you like to make a -- an additional comment  
8 now?

9 MS. RANDALL: Yes. I'm really in favor of what  
10 Representative McKinley said: Let's go back to  
11 ten-year. Why do we need 100-year? Let's see what  
12 they can do in ten years, and if they're no good,  
13 throw them out and get our land back. That's my  
14 comment.

15 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Ms. Randall. With that, I  
16 believe that we have called on everyone who wished  
17 to make a comment during this public hearing.

18 Kristy, do we have anyone else in person there --

19 MS. ELLENBERG: Any other comments?

20 MS. MOYE: -- that would like to -- who will raise their  
21 hand now if you would like to make a comment?

22 MS. GREENLAW: May I -- may I add -- I didn't use my  
23 whole three minutes. May I have 30 seconds left --

24 MS. ELLENBERG: I believe Ms. Greenlaw had a -- a few  
25 seconds left, and would like to -- to add a final



1 comment, or two, Donna, and . . .

2 MS. GREENLAW: Okay. Thank you. I've spelt my name  
3 before, so I -- I'm not going to repeat that. I  
4 appreciate that you have someone from mining and  
5 from air quality tonight. Where's the water  
6 person? Okay. We really need to speak to the --  
7 the person who worked on the water mitigation plan,  
8 which I don't really see much of a plan. There  
9 doesn't seem to be reclamation of wetlands. And,  
10 actually, wetlands usually cannot be reclaimed.  
11 Once they're gone, they're gone. The intermittent  
12 wetlands also don't seem to appear to be of concern  
13 to DHEC or to Luck.

14 The ecosystem loss from losing these, okay, it  
15 -- it -- that can't be reclaimed. They do -- and I  
16 think I mentioned this in my comments before. They  
17 -- there's what's -- was called "Ecosystem  
18 Services." If you paid for a company to purify  
19 your water, well, that has a cost. But wetlands do  
20 it for us for free. It's a service God provides to  
21 us, and it's being ruined, and they're going to  
22 give us a pond that will not do the work that the  
23 wetlands will do.

24 And so when I said something earlier about the  
25 -- you know, like ten years, let them prove

1           themselves, that was kind of tongue-in-cheek. I  
2           oppose this mine totally. Thank you.

3   MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw, for those additional  
4           comments.

5   MS. ELLENBERG: I think we've got one more, Donna.

6   MS. MOYE: Okay. It's great to have so many of you with  
7           us, and -- who are coming up to comment, so thank  
8           you. Please remember to state your name and spell  
9           it for the court reporter.

10   MR. WHITE: Uh-huh. My name is Robert White, R-o-b-e-r-  
11           t, W-h-i-t-e. I'm a reporter with "The Country  
12           Chronicle," and I just wanted to follow up on  
13           something that happened at the last meeting.

14           Joe Koon, who is a project manager with DHECs  
15           division of mining and solid waste management,  
16           said, "We have obviously received very new  
17           information in regards to the groundwater model  
18           that we are evaluating." The meeting was held on  
19           the 22nd; the 19th is when the report was issued  
20           from SME -- or from Luck Stone, that was produced  
21           by SME. And he goes on to say, "We're very  
22           interested in reaching out to the Town of Ridgeway  
23           to better understand the operations of that well  
24           and to better understanding the pumping time  
25           frames." And this all has to go to water quantity.

1           In looking over the preparation of tonight's  
2           meeting -- said we talk about the air permit but  
3           said the item that -- obviously, DHEC was not  
4           prepared to speak on in the last meeting is omitted  
5           -- is the water quantity. And I would like to know  
6           has that been resolved, and how is the process that  
7           it's been resolved?

8           Obviously, SME works for Luck Stone, and they  
9           prepared all of these intricate reports, and  
10          they're -- they go on -- if you haven't looked at  
11          them, they go on and on and on. As DHEC -- do they  
12          do an equal amount of due diligence vetting this  
13          information? And since we weren't presented this  
14          information at the last meeting, is it -- has it  
15          been vetted now? What is the process of -- of  
16          vetting it, and do we do -- do we have our own  
17          specialists -- as the people -- have their own  
18          specialists, just like Luck Stone has SME as their  
19          specialists?

20          So I just want to know, is -- if the  
21          information that was not available has been  
22          followed up on, and the process by which it was  
23          followed up on. Thank you.

24          MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. White.

25          UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The truth comes out.

1 MS. MOYE: We appreciate your comments -- or your  
2 attendance at the meeting and at the hearing. I  
3 will just reiterate that this public hearing is a  
4 formal proceeding, and therefore questions are not  
5 answered during the public hearing, but we will  
6 certainly be more than happy to speak with you  
7 about the questions that you have raised tomorrow.  
8 And I have your name down, and we'll be glad to  
9 have somebody back in touch with you, if you'd  
10 like, or you can contact Joe after tonight.

11 So I think we have, maybe, one more raised  
12 hand virtually. And, Kristy, if you don't have  
13 anyone else there who is indicating they would like  
14 to speak, I think after we hear from this last  
15 virtual person, we will move forward with having  
16 closing comments.

17 So, I believe, virtually, someone with a  
18 telephone number ending in 9944 has indicated they  
19 would like to make a comment. If you'll just press  
20 \*6 on your phone.

21 MS. YON: Looks like they're unmuted, Donna.

22 MS. MOYE: Okay. Again, the person with the phone  
23 number ending in 9944, you can make your comment  
24 now.

25 (No response.)

1 MS. MOYE: Okay. We're going to pass through, and I had  
2 one more person -- Mr. Lyles, I know that you spoke  
3 earlier. Did you want to speak again briefly?

4 MR. LYLES: Yes. John Lyles, L-y-l-e-s. I spoke  
5 earlier about groundwater, and I did want to make  
6 one more point about the groundwater.

7 The hydrological study -- the limited  
8 hydrological study that came out in March, followed  
9 up by the report called "The Groundwater Modeling  
10 Study," on July 19th, just before the last meeting,  
11 I've really gone through both of those reports  
12 quite a few times now trying to see what's changed.  
13 And it looks to me like the same underlying  
14 assumptions from a company called "THG," I think --  
15 THG Geophysics. They did the original testing and  
16 measurements using techniques, geophysical, to try  
17 to figure out where the water would be moving in  
18 the bedrock, and they came up with some  
19 conclusions.

20 Well, it looks like this last report was sort  
21 of a regurgitation of the same information but with  
22 an emphasis on, "Oh, we aligned the lineaments and  
23 the" -- what do you call them? -- "diabase dikes  
24 with the Ridgeway well. And now we can say that  
25 the Ridgeway well won't be affected in 40 years; it

1           might drop 10 feet."

2                   But, I guess, my real question is: Why is  
3           this information so evasive in this particular  
4           proposal, whereas in Chester there was a lot of  
5           pumping studies, and there was a real model  
6           created. And in this particular groundwater, not  
7           only modeling report but the original limited  
8           report, there really isn't a model. It's sort of  
9           based on the other county's measurements, and it  
10          looks to me like there is a real lack of data here  
11          -- basic data to get such conclusions that the  
12          water's not going to effect the other wells like  
13          Mr. Qualls' and the other ones that we talked  
14          about.

15                   But I do believe that needs to be a very  
16          important thing that DHEC looks at now because we  
17          are seeing -- you know, we're seeing evidence that  
18          a lot of people are concerned about the water, so  
19          that's all I have to say. And thanks, everybody,  
20          for putting up with this, and all the people that  
21          showed up.

22   MS. MOYE: Thank you, so much, Mr. Lyles. It has  
23          certainly been a good turnout, and we do appreciate  
24          everyone's attendance, both in person and online.  
25          So on behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank

1 everyone for joining us tonight and giving us your  
2 comments. Please note, once again, that -- well,  
3 that was one of the first times that I -- that I  
4 was just a chatting away, and I was on mute, so I  
5 apologize. But I was just going to echo Mr. Lyles,  
6 that we really do appreciate everyone joining us  
7 tonight and giving us your comments.

8 And on behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank  
9 everyone for joining us tonight and giving your  
10 comments. Please note once again that written  
11 comments may be submitted by mail or e-mail to DHEC  
12 through August 20, 2021. All written comments  
13 received on or before this date will be considered  
14 in DHEC's decision-making processes.

15 It is important to note that DHEC's final  
16 decisions on the mine operating permit application  
17 and the draft air permit are two separate  
18 decisions. Each decision will be made after the  
19 public comment period ends, as follows: For the  
20 draft air permit, DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality will  
21 review and consider all comments received and may  
22 request additional information from the applicant,  
23 if necessary. A decision will then be made to  
24 approve, disapprove, or modify the draft permit.

25 For the mine operating permit application,

1 DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management will  
2 review and consider all comments received and may  
3 request additional information from the applicant,  
4 if necessary. A decision will then be made to  
5 approve or deny a mine operating permit.

6 Once final permit decisions are made, DHEC  
7 will provide a summary response to all comments  
8 received. The permit decisions and summary of  
9 responses to all comments received will be posted  
10 on our web page and provided to everyone on our  
11 mailing list. You have the right to request a  
12 final review of any permit decision made by DHEC.  
13 The final review request must be submitted in  
14 writing to DHEC's clerk of the board, along with a  
15 filing fee in the amount of \$100 within 15 days  
16 after notice of DHEC's permit decision has been  
17 mailed. In consideration of this requirement, you  
18 will receive notification of DHEC's permit decision  
19 by standard US mail or by e-mail. If you wish to  
20 be notified of DHEC's decision by certified mail  
21 instead, please make your request in writing no  
22 later than August 20, 2021.

23 On behalf of DHEC, I would, again, like to  
24 thank you for your attendance and comments this  
25 evening. As the state's public health agency, DHEC



1 encourages you to help us win the fight against  
2 COVID-19 by getting a safe, effective, and free  
3 vaccine. For information on COVID-19 and finding a  
4 vaccine location near you, call 1-866-365-8110 or  
5 visit our website at [SCDHEC.gov/vaxfacts](http://SCDHEC.gov/vaxfacts), and  
6 that's v-a-x-f-a-c-t-s. The time is now 8:29 p.m.,  
7 and this hearing is officially adjourned. You may  
8 disconnect at this time. Good night.

9 (Whereupon, at 8:29 p.m., the public  
10 hearing of the above-entitled matter  
11 was concluded)

12 (\*This transcript may contain quoted material.  
13 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted  
14 by the speaker.)  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF YORK            )

CERTIFICATE

Be it known that Cindy H. Patterson 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;

that, if a recording of an event was supplied by another party for purposes of transcription and I was not present during that event, the foregoing pages were transcribed to the best of my skill and ability; additionally, any identifications of speakers were provided to me by the party supplying the recording;

that, in the event of a nonappearance by the witness, the foregoing details for the nonappearance are accurate.

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

*Cindy Patterson*  
Cindy H. Patterson

Date: 8/23/2021  
Notary public for South Carolina  
My commission expires June 30, 2027  
\*Unless otherwise noted, this notary public administered the oath. Please refer to the transcript for any exceptions.