

1 PUBLIC NOTICE OF A DRAFT AIR PERMIT
2 AND PUBLIC HEARING
3 State of South Carolina (SC)
4 Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
5 Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ)
6 2600 Bull Street
7 Columbia, South Carolina 29201

8 Public Notice # 12-032-PSD-H

9 APPLICANT: SHOWA DENKO CARBON, INC.
10 478 Ridge Road
11 Ridgeville, South Carolina
12 (Dorchester County/Region 7 Charleston EQC Office)
13 Public Hearing Regarding Draft Air Construction Permit

14 DATE: Monday, May 14, 2012

15 START TIME: 6:55 p.m.

16 LOCATION: Ridgeville Town Hall Auditorium
17 105 School Street
18 Ridgeville, South Carolina

19 PRESENTED BY: DHEC Representatives

20 REPORTED BY: KAREN A. KOCSIS
21 Certified Court Reporter

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2 DHEC REPRESENTATIVES:

3 KARIN SKIPPER, HEARING OFFICER
4 Environmental Quality Control
Community Liaison - (803) 896-8967
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5 ELIZABETH J. BASIL, DIRECTOR
6 Engineering Services Divison
Bureau of Air Quality - (803) 898-4126
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8 VERONICA BARRINGER, SECTION MANAGER
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10 SHELIA WATTS, PERMIT WRITER
11 Engineering Services Division
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13 KAREN LEE, PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST
Engineering Services Division
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15 SORAYA PURVIS, PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST
16 Engineering Services Division
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17
18 Also Present: Clinton Lucas, Human Resources,
Showa Denko Carbon, Inc.

19 INDEX

20 Statement by Hearing Officer 3

21 EXHIBITS

22 No exhibits were marked during this hearing.

23

24

25

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Good evening. It is
3 now 6:55 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2012, and
4 this a public hearing regarding the
5 Draft Prevention of Significant
6 Deterioration Air Permit for Showa Denko
7 Carbon, Inc., is now called to order.

8 For the record this facility is
9 located at 478 Ridge Road in Ridgeville, South
10 Carolina, Dorchester County.

11 My name is Karen Skipper. I am the
12 Community Liaison for South Carolina
13 DHEC's Office of Environmental Quality
14 Control. Tonight I will serve as the
15 hearing officer.

16 Before I go any further, I ask
17 you to please turn off your cell phone
18 or switch to vibrate so that you do not
19 disturb others during the hearing.

20 The purpose of the hearing is to
21 provide a formal opportunity for you to
22 give us your verbal and/or written
23 comments for the record. To be sure
24 that everyone has the opportunity to be
25 heard, questions will not be answered

1 by DHEC staff during this formal
2 hearing.

3 I would like to point out that our
4 court reporter, she will be responsible
5 for preparing a written transcript,
6 which will serve as the official record
7 of this public hearing. If at some
8 later time you are interested in
9 reviewing this record, you may request
10 to see it.

11 The requested air permit has not
12 been approved. We recognize that many
13 of you may have concerns and questions
14 regarding this draft permit. The
15 comments you share may provide DHEC
16 staff with additional ideas or thoughts
17 about this draft permit. A decision as
18 to whether or not the air permit will be
19 approved, modified, or denied will not
20 be made tonight, during this hearing.
21 All comments received will be considered
22 by DHEC staff prior to making a permit
23 decision.

24 Please note that the draft permit
25 has been written to ensure that Showa

1 Denko can operate in compliance with
2 State and Federal air quality
3 regulations. These regulations are in
4 place to protect human health and
5 welfare and to ensure that air quality
6 standards are maintained.

7 All written comments must be
8 received by DHEC no later than close of
9 business, five p.m. on Wednesday May 16,
10 2012. Again, that date is Wednesday,
11 May 16, 2012. If you have questions
12 related to submitting written comments,
13 please see a DHEC staff member before
14 you leave. All written comments
15 received on or before this date will be
16 considered as part of the decision
17 making process.

18 In order for tonight's hearing to
19 move forward in a timely and orderly
20 fashion, I would like to cover the
21 following guidelines:

22 There will be no cross-examination
23 or questions or answers while a
24 presentation or comment is being made.

25 All comments tonight will be made

1 from this podium.

2 So that everyone has an opportunity
3 to speak, all speakers will be given no
4 more than five minutes to make their
5 comments.

6 If your comments will take more time
7 than that, and you have them written
8 down, you can leave them with me tonight
9 or mail them to DHEC by the end of the
10 comment period.

11 I ask that each speaker be allowed
12 to present his or her views without
13 interruption. I will not allow
14 disruptions to alter the intent of this
15 hearing. Each person who has requested
16 to participate here tonight must be
17 given a fair opportunity to provide his
18 or her comment.

19 We will proceed in the following
20 order:

21 First: Shelia Watts, who is a permit writer
22 with DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality, will
23 give a brief overview of the draft
24 permit.

25 Then, I will call on the individuals who have

1 indicated on the sign-in sheet that they
2 would like to made a comment.
3 Lastly, I will call on anyone who has decided
4 during the course of the evening that
5 they would also like to make a comment
6 on the record, but did not indicate
7 their intention on the sign-in sheet.

8 Please remember that this time will
9 only be for those who have not yet made a
10 comment during the public hearing
11 portion of tonight's meeting.

12 I will now call on Shelia from the
13 Bureau of Air Quality.

14 MS. WATTS: Good evening, my name is Sheila.
15 Watts and I am a permit writer in the
16 Bureau of Air Quality within the South
17 Carolina Department of Health and
18 Environmental Control. I am here
19 tonight to present information regarding
20 the draft air construction permit for
21 Showa Denko Carbon in Ridgeville.

22 Showa Denko Carbon manufactures
23 graphite electrodes for use in the steel
24 manufacturing industry and has been
25 operating since 1983. They plan to

1 increase their production of finished
2 graphite electrodes from 45,000 to 85,000
3 metric tons per year.

4 There are nine existing processes
5 at the facility. For the proposed
6 expansion, some processes will undergo
7 modification and some processes will be
8 new and a duplication of existing
9 processes.

10 The Prevention of Significance
11 Deterioration permit is issued when a
12 proposed construction project has the
13 potential to result in major air emission
14 increases. The Prevention of Significant
15 Deterioration permit provides a means of
16 protecting the air quality within the
17 area of the major emissions increase by
18 requiring that Best Available Control
19 technology is applied to each air
20 emission source and that an air impact
21 analysis is performed.

22 On June 14, 2011, the Bureau of
23 Air Quality received an application for
24 an air permit from Showa Denko Carbon.
25 On February 17, 2012, Showa Denko Carbon

1 submitted a revised air permit
2 application. On April 13, 2012 the draft
3 air permit was placed on public notice
4 and open to receive comments.

5 Technical review of the proposed
6 project is performed to determine whether
7 the facility has initially shown that it
8 can comply with State and Federal Air
9 Quality Regulations.

10 The air pollution control devices
11 that have been proposed are baghouses,
12 dry fume scrubber/baghouse, vent
13 condensers, thermal oxidizers, and wet
14 scrubbers. These control devices reduce
15 the amount of air pollution from the
16 equipment. These controls will be tested
17 initially and periodically to ensure
18 proper operation. Additionally, the
19 draft permit requires the control devices
20 to be monitored for proper operation at
21 least once a day.

22 The facility is also subject to
23 South Carolina Regulations 61-62.5
24 Standard 1 (Emissions from Fuel Burning
25 Operations), Standard 3 (Waste

1 Combustion and Reduction), Standard 4
2 (Emissions from Process Industries), and
3 South Carolina Regulation 61,62,63/40
4 CFR 63 National Emission Standards for
5 Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source
6 Categories, Subpart A and Subpart B.

7 On May 16, 2012, the public
8 comment period will end. The Bureau of
9 Air Quality will review all public
10 comments and any comments from EPA and
11 the Federal Land Manager. After review,
12 a permit decision will be made. We will
13 notify those on the mailing list of the
14 decision. The Department's decision
15 along with other supporting documents
16 will be placed on BAQ's website under
17 Air Permitting Decision of Public
18 Interest.

19 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Thank you. We now.
20 will hear from those who signed up to speak.
21 Before making your comment, I would ask
22 that each of you clearly state your name
23 and group you are representing, if any,
24 for the court reporter. If you have a
25 written copy of your comments and don't

1 mind leaving it with us, please give it
2 to me when you finish speaking.
3 Remember, you have up to five minutes to
4 provide comments.

5 Clinton Lucas.

6 MR. LUCAS: Yes. My name is Clinton Lucas.

7 I'm the human resources manager at
8 Showa Denko Carbon and what I really
9 want to say is that the company has made
10 a commitment through its existence to be
11 a good corporate citizen to be a good
12 neighbor to the folks who live in and
13 around our plant, and whenever there has
14 been an incident in the past regarding
15 waste, we have done a thorough
16 investigation and responded promptly to
17 any concerns that we might have received
18 from a neighbor.

19 So my main point in speaking is
20 just to say that it has been
21 determined to be a good neighbor, to not
22 infringe on the style and the way of
23 life of the people in the Town of
24 Ridgeville and surrounding area have
25 created for themselves.

1 So that is what I wanted to say
2 tonight.

3 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Kevon Samal Smalls.

4 (No response.)

5 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: John Ferrell.

6 (No response.)

7 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Travis Stephens.

8 (No response.)

9 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Michael Kemmerlin.

10 MR. KEMMERLIN: My question was answered in
11 the first session.

12 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: Okay. Now I will ask
13 anyone who has decided during the course
14 of the evening that they would also like
15 to make a statement to please raise your
16 hand.

17 (No response.)

18 HEARING OFFICER SKIPPER: On behalf of DHEC.
19 I would like to thank everyone for your
20 comments. The comment portion of this
21 public hearing is now concluded.

22 Please remember that all
23 written comments must be received by
24 DHEC no later than five p.m. on
25 Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

1 Before we adjourn this
2 hearing, I would like to explain the
3 process DHEC will follow in making a
4 decision on the draft permit.

5 Following this public hearing
6 and formal comment period, DHEC will make
7 a decision as to whether the draft air
8 permit should be approved, approved with
9 conditions, disapproved or modified.

10 This decision will be based
11 upon: the review and consideration of the
12 applicable State and Federal Air Quality
13 Regulations, the review of comments made
14 at this hearing in the form of a
15 transcript, the review of all other
16 comments received within the required
17 time frame, and the consideration of any
18 other pertinent information. The
19 decision is not made by popular vote.

20 A copy of the Notice of
21 Appeal Procedures is included in your
22 hearing folder. These are the procedures
23 that must be followed if a final review,
24 otherwise known as an appeal, is
25 requested after a permit decision has

1 been made. Any person has a right to
2 request a final review, or appeal, of any
3 permit decision made by DHEC. This
4 request must be made in writing to DHEC's
5 Clerk of the Board within 15 days after
6 notice of DHEC's decision has been mailed
7 along with a filing fee in the amount of
8 \$100. If you indicated on the hearing
9 sign-in sheet that you wanted to receive
10 any other future information about the
11 permit for Showa Denko, or have submitted
12 written comments before the hearing, you
13 will receive notification of DHEC's
14 decision by standard U.S. mail or by
15 E-mail. However, if you wish to be
16 notified of DHEC's decision by certified
17 mail, please see Karen Lee or Soraya
18 Purvis near the sign-in table before you
19 leave. If you choose to make your
20 certified mail request in writing, you
21 are asked to do so by the close of the
22 comment period on May 16, 2012.

23 Finally, I would like to
24 point out that there is a Public Meeting
25 Feedback Form in your folder. We are

1 interested in knowing your thoughts and
2 suggestions about tonight's hearing and
3 how we can improve our efforts. Please
4 take a moment to complete this form and
5 place it in the box on the sign-in table
6 as you leave. Any comments or
7 suggestions are appreciated and will be
8 kept anonymous.

9 On behalf DHEC, I would again
10 like to thank everyone for your attendance
11 and comments this evening.

12 The time is now 7:09 p.m.
13 and this hearing is officially adjourned. No
14 formal further recording of this hearing will
15 take place.

16 DHEC staff will be available
17 after this hearing to answer any additional
18 questions you may have.

19 (Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.)

20

21 (*This transcript may contain quoted material.
22 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted by the
23 speaker.)

24 (**Certificate accompanies sealed original only.)

25