

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

)	
)	
IN RE: HEIDELBERG)	
MATERIALS SOUTHEAST AGG,)	TRANSCRIPT
LLC)	
)	OF
MANNING QUARRY)	
)	PUBLIC HEARING
RICHLAND COUNTY,)	
SOUTH CAROLINA)	

Date: March 19, 2026

Time: 7:03 p.m.

Location: Columbia International University,
7435 Monticello Road, Columbia, South Carolina

Reported by
Julie Taradash

APPEARANCES

SCDES Officials Present:

Catherine Sawyer, Hearing Officer
Colby Myers
Nick Hoehn

Speakers from the Public:

Eddie Wolfe
Bill Strangler
Shawn Harman
Lawrence Klein

INDEX

Introductions by Ms. Sawyer:	3
Statements by Mr. Myers and Mr. Hoehn:	5
Public Comments:	7

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right, everyone. Time is
3 now 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th, 2026, and
4 this public hearing will now begin.

5 This hearing is being held by the South
6 Carolina Department of Environmental Services to
7 receive comments on the application submitted by
8 Heidelberg Materials Southeast AGG, LLC, to mine
9 granite at a site located at 7900 Monticello Road
10 in Richland County, about six and a half miles
11 northwest of Columbia.

12 As a formal proceeding, the purpose of this
13 hearing is to record oral comments for the official
14 record. SCDES staff will not respond to questions
15 or comments during the hearing.

16 A certified transcript will be prepared and
17 posted on your webpage at des.sc.gov/manning-quarry
18 when it becomes available.

19 My name is Catherine Sawyer, and I will serve
20 as your hearing officer tonight. Thank you for
21 being here for this important step in our
22 permitting process.

23 Before we begin, a few reminders. Please
24 silence all cell phones and electronic devices. If
25 you have not done so already, please sign in at the

1 table out front so that we have a record of
2 attendance tonight and can notify you on future
3 updates.

4 DES's permitting process requires applicants
5 to demonstrate that their proposed operations can
6 meet all state and federal environmental
7 regulations.

8 Our role is to review applications and, if
9 appropriate, issue and enforce permits that protect
10 human health and the environment. Your role is to
11 provide comments for consideration.

12 While decisions are not based on a vote or the
13 number of similar comments, your input may
14 influence whether or not a permit is issued or, if
15 issued, the terms and conditions written into it.

16 A presentation on the proposed mine and
17 permitting process was provided earlier at 6 p.m.
18 and will be posted online before the end of the
19 comment period.

20 For tonight's process, Colby Myers will read a
21 restatement about the proposed mine, then Nick
22 Hoehn will give an overview of the draft air
23 permit.

24 After that, I will call on those who indicated
25 on the sign-in sheet that they wish to speak. If

1 you choose not to comment when called, you may
2 decline.

3 After all listed speakers have commented, I
4 will ask if anyone else wishes to speak. Once all
5 comments are received, I will give pleasant remarks
6 and adjourn the hearing.

7 To ensure fairness and efficiency, please
8 follow these guidelines.

9 First, your comments should not go over three
10 minutes per individual or five minutes for elected
11 officials or those speaking on behalf of an
12 organized group.

13 Second, please be respectful towards anyone
14 speaking here tonight.

15 And, third, please do not interrupt or ask
16 other participants to respond to your comments.

17 Should any comments or actions begin to move
18 away from the intent of this hearing, I may ask the
19 speaker to limit their statements and be seated.

20 As a reminder, staff will not answer
21 questions.

22 I will now call on Colby Myers to read a
23 restatement.

24 MR. MYERS: On July 9th, 2025, Heidelberg Materials

25 Southeast -- Southeast Agg, LLC, submitted a mine

1 operating permit application to mine granite in
2 Richland County.

3 The total permitted area is proposed to be
4 241.9 acres, consisting of 144.5 acres of affected
5 area, 97.4 acres of buffer, and no future reserves.

6 The reclamation plan proposes to reclaim the
7 site to a pond or lake, grasslands, and woodlands.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. Nick from Air.

9 MR. HOEHN: Heidelberg Materials Southeast Agg, LLC,
10 Manning Quarry has applied to the department for an
11 air construction permit to install and operate a
12 new aggregate mine and processing plant.

13 A draft permit and draft statement of basis
14 have been written outlining the proposed project
15 and applicable regulations.

16 This permit will enable the facility to
17 construct and operate in compliance with state and
18 federal air quality regulations.

19 The permit includes federally enforceable
20 facility-wide limits to remain below the major
21 source thresholds for both Title 5 operating permit
22 and prevention of significant deterioration
23 regulations.

24 The limits are less than 250 tons per year of
25 particulate matter emissions and less than 100 tons

1 per year for both particulate matter emissions less
2 than 10 microns and particulate matter emissions
3 less than 2.5 microns.

4 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. I will now call on
5 the folks who signed in in a random order to give
6 their comments.

7 Please come up to the microphone and state
8 your name very clearly. Please spell your first
9 and last names also for the court reporter.

10 Eddie Wolfe, would you still like to speak?

11 You're right there --

12 MR. WOLFE: Oh, right here?

13 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: -- at the microphone, sir.

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. WOLFE: Okay. Yes. I'm -- I'm Eddie Wolfe. I live
16 at 1013 Winterwood Road, which is less than a half
17 a mile up Monticello in the corner of Monticello
18 and Winterwood. And I'm here to voice my
19 opposition, obviously, to -- to the permits that
20 would allow the proposed site for the granite mine,
21 so . . .

22 I'm 77 years old. I lived on the same land
23 for 77 years. My sister is here with me. She's
24 81, and has lived on the land for 80 years.

25 So why did I bring that up? I bring it up

1 because as mentioned earlier, a lot of the people
2 in this neighborhood here are elderly people or
3 seniors that have lived here for many, many, many,
4 many years. There are older folks who have lived
5 on the property for all of their lives in some of
6 the cases, so --

7 I personally know a gentleman who is one of
8 the closest residents to the entrance to the mine.
9 He is in his 80s and he's totally disabled. So
10 people like this don't need this. Most of the
11 time, he stays by himself, so we're concerned for
12 ourselves, but we're concerned for people that --
13 that might be impacted by that.

14 If this is approved, even if a -- a resident
15 wanted to move away, the problem there is by that
16 time the -- the impact of the mine is going to be
17 lowering the cost of their homes and their
18 property. And what they would sell their home for,
19 here, would be diminished, and may not even be able
20 to buy another home in the same category of what
21 they were living in.

22 As far as I'm concerned, I never plan to
23 leave. I've been here 77, I'm going to go out
24 there. But -- but a lot of -- but what I'm more
25 concerned about is the impact of -- of this. Could

1 our homes be damaged, for an example? And we've
2 talked about that, and I think that's certainly a
3 possibility to me.

4 The noise from the -- the mine would be
5 relentless. And I think it will be, and it's a
6 major issue. Listening to explosions a short
7 distance away, and, again, I'm within a half a
8 mile, is not the way I plan to spend the rest of my
9 life. The rumbling and banging from crushing
10 machines will be constant.

11 Also, the issue of pollution is huge for me.
12 Besides the noise, I'm concerned about
13 environmental issues, equipment, trucks, discharge,
14 dust, traffic, and a big hole in the ground.

15 And I would like to comment about that, first,
16 Richtex mine that one of the folks here mentioned.
17 There's still a big hole in the ground off of Frost
18 Avenue in Denny Terrace. So sounds like there's a
19 possibility here of discharge into the Burgess
20 Creek. I know that there are going to be
21 guidelines to try to prevent that for the overflow.
22 It could be a possibility. And when I was a small
23 child, one of our swimming holes was in that creek,
24 so that creek is special to me.

25 For those who not -- might not know about

1 Burgess Creek, it flows into the Broad River
2 adjacent to the Frost Mill Islands. Those islands
3 have been there for centuries, and they have been
4 used over the years for different generations for
5 fishing -- fishing, for kayaking, boating and
6 picnics and such as that, so I'm concerned about
7 the impact on the creek. I mean, it's concerned to
8 back down on the river, and I'm concerned about the
9 impact on the islands.

10 I can tell you this: I've spent my life on
11 the Broad River. There are quarries on the -- near
12 the Broad River. I know where they discharge in
13 the river. And it's not a pretty sight. So -- so
14 what kind of business industry, you know, do we
15 have north of the -- the university here?

16 What we have is a former landfill that was
17 used for trees, vegetation, and what was right down
18 on the Frost Mill Road down here. We had the --
19 the clay mine that we're -- we're talking about
20 replacing here. Not one, but two rock quarries up
21 the road.

22 And last, the Richland County Landfill. Tell
23 you a little about the landfill. You know, in this
24 community here, we thought that the landfill was
25 about at capacity, and it would close and move

1 somewhere else. Well, not so fast. They've
2 applied for rezoning on 75 acres of land --
3 approximately 75 acres of land that would run the
4 landfill all the way out that within 100 yards of
5 Montgomery Road, which is a road that is a -- a
6 different neighborhood, but a very nice
7 neighborhood, very similar to -- to what we have
8 here close by, people that have lived there all of
9 their lives.

10 So we are, you know, what I'm asking for, I'm
11 asking for compassion from -- from the
12 environmental services here for the people that
13 live here, for the -- for the people that live
14 their entire lives, particularly the elderly folks
15 that lived here. And I'm asking for a no vote on
16 the permits.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Hang on, sir. Here's your
18 notepad.

19 MR. WOLFE: Oh, excuse me. Okay. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Uh-huh. All right. Next up to
21 speak is Brett Miller. Do you still wish to speak?

22 MR. MILLER: No, ma'am.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: No? Okay. Shawn Harman?

24 MR. HARMAN: I want to go last. I want to go last.

25 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: I can do that. Okay. Bill

1 Stangler, would you like to speak?

2 MR. STANGLER: Yeah. I signed up. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Uh-huh.

4 MR. STANGLER: My name is Bill Stangler. I'm your
5 Congaree Riverkeeper. It's B-i-l-l S-t-a-n-g-l-e-
6 r. I represent an organization that works to
7 protect the three rivers here.

8 I've looked at the permit, and just off the
9 bat, a hundred years is entirely too long to issue
10 a permit for. That means that the project will
11 continue under this permit well after anyone in
12 this room's children will even get to see that
13 final reclamation.

14 I know that these projects last for a long
15 time, that you can mine a quarry for a long time,
16 but that doesn't mean you have to issue a permit
17 for a hundred years. Certainly not be stuck with
18 the decisions based on a regulatory structure a
19 century ago.

20 One of the biggest concerns about quarry
21 operations, and certainly in this area, is
22 sediment, so we've heard that they are going to
23 have sediment basins and detention basins, and
24 that's important to have. That's absolutely
25 critical, but those -- those concerns are still

1 there. And I -- I'm speaking from experience here.
2 We've had quarries that exist in this area, whether
3 they're upstream on the Broad River or the ones in
4 downtown Columbia, and I've chased enough sediment
5 problems through those tributaries and to those
6 quarries to know that it doesn't always work.

7 So one of the things that I think is
8 incredibly important here is the monitoring
9 requirements. While the company will have to
10 disclose monthly monitoring reports through their
11 DMRs, there's additional monitoring that's part of
12 the general permit that they are getting, or
13 actually have already received approval for, and
14 that kind of goes into a black box.

15 The agency does not generally disclose that
16 information nor do permittees usually give that
17 information to the agency. That stuff should be
18 made publicly available on a regular basis, on an
19 ongoing basis. Too often, permittees fail to do
20 that required monitoring, and the agency has
21 historically failed to enforce those general permit
22 requirements.

23 Going through the permit, there was a section
24 that asked about threatened and endangered species,
25 and then there was a single-line response, "Do they

1 exist?"

2 The answer was, "No." It was not clear from
3 the application what type of analysis went into
4 that conversation.

5 Normally, when you look at a permit that does
6 that kind of RTE, rare, threatened, endangered
7 look, you have consultations with state agencies,
8 consultations with federal agencies, surveys of the
9 property. In this case, all that was available to
10 the public to see was, "No." And yet we know that
11 various protected species do occur in this area.
12 Bald eagles definitely exist and occur along the
13 Broad River. I saw a pair of them on the Broad
14 River just above this site over the weekend. We've
15 seen a number of them downstream.

16 Additionally, certain species that are not
17 federally listed are still in the area. If you
18 look at that map, less than a thousand feet from
19 this site is a population of Rocky Shoal Spider
20 Lilies. Rocky Shoal Spider Lilies are a state
21 species of concern. They're a rare flower that
22 only occur in a handful of places, maybe 30
23 populations in the entire world. They occur right
24 there at the shoals on the Broad River, just
25 downstream where this creek discharges into the

1 river. It could be significantly impacted by
2 sediment coming off of this site. So I think
3 that's something that should be addressed both
4 through the permitting process and by the company
5 if they move forward on this process is to ensure
6 that they're not going to damage one of the last
7 remaining populations of Rocky Shoal Spider Lilies
8 on the Broad River. Again, more thorough analysis
9 of that.

10 One of the other things that was interesting
11 in that permit application was, again, a -- a
12 blanket "no" to cultural or historic sites in the
13 area. I know this area has been impacted before by
14 a clay operation, so -- but Nipper Creek Heritage
15 Preserve, which is run by DNR, is immediately
16 upstream of this site near one of the other
17 quarries. The way that they found out that that
18 had important historic artifacts on it was because
19 quarry operations started and folks said, "Hey, we
20 should really look at this." Archaeologists went
21 out and the estate actually protected that area so
22 that they could do more evaluation of that.

23 So, to blanketly say, "No. That doesn't
24 exist," when you know that you have actually a
25 trove of artifacts immediately upstream at another

1 site that was found because of quarrying activity
2 seems a bit disingenuous.

3 So those are just some things I think should
4 be looked at during this application process. And,
5 again, specifically the concerns about
6 sedimentation to the Broad River and to Burgess
7 Creek. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Christian Hendricks, would you
9 like to speak?

10 MR. HARMAN: He stepped out.

11 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay. Shawn Harman?

12 MR. HARMAN: My name is Gabriel Shawn Harman. I go by
13 "Shawnie."

14 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Uh-huh.

15 MR. HARMAN: S-h-a-w-n. Like I said, my concerns are
16 the elderly neighbors. I've been out here all my
17 life. I grew up between two of the rock quarries,
18 Martin Marietta and Vulcan. Every time they
19 dynamite, you know it. I've never seen any
20 conversation to any of my neighbors or friends.

21 The man from -- Betty Bloom, you probably know
22 well. Her husband was friends with my daddy.
23 Daddy died in '79. He actually farmed a landfill
24 above Vulcan. I've never seen any good. We got
25 busted windshields every time we turn around. We

1 got trash on the road from the dump, which ain't
2 the rock quarry, but it's still a factor out here.
3 I have literally picked trash up from the dump here
4 back to the landfill the day I dumped a load of
5 trash.

6 My concern is the address don't match the
7 property that y'all are using. The address they're
8 using is on the opposite side of the road, which is
9 owned by one of the very members of this bible
10 college. I'm concerned they're not trying to do
11 the plant where they're saying; they're going to
12 switch it across the road, which has been done in
13 the past. I've talked to many of my neighbors.
14 Like I said, some of them very elderly/very sick,
15 they cannot come. The three immediate houses, this
16 is going to destroy. But I'm concerned about the
17 half-mile radius notifications. There's been no
18 notices put on the highway for nobody.

19 The clay pit. There was always damages,
20 wrecks that wasn't claimed -- no claims were filed.
21 It caused wrecks every time it rained out here.
22 Nobody cared. I knew hundreds of people that
23 worked at them plants. I know guys that dynamited
24 both quarries. My concern's for the neighborhood.
25 We have too much already in the immediate area.

1 That's all I wanted to say.

2 The other thing is: I got friends that own
3 hundreds of acres want to add a house for the
4 family. The government won't let them because of
5 wildlife -- green. They want to stay green. I've
6 got friends going to Farrow Road with the same
7 problem. Yet they're going to add another rock
8 quarry to destroy the wildlife and the creek.
9 Because that creek that runs through this place,
10 there's no way around that. It's directly down the
11 edge of -- the middle of it. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. That concludes all
13 who signed up to comment. If anyone else wishes to
14 speak, please raise your hand.

15 MR. KLEIN: Me.

16 Yes, sir. Please remember to state your name
17 and spell it for the court reporter.

18 MR. KLEIN: Yes. I'm Lawrence Klein, L-a-w-r-e-n-c-e K-
19 l-e-i-n. I live at 7964 Monticello, and I agree
20 with all the other comments so far.

21 I've worked with my forester to prepare a
22 four-page letter because we do put timber on our --
23 on our property over there. And we -- we're very
24 conscientious about the wildlife, and we've, you
25 know, replanted and done those sorts of things

1 because we love the area. And -- and we have
2 really good neighbors, as well. Even though we
3 have a lot of property, we have a number of them
4 that have been spoken to you now.

5 And so I've -- I've already sent this letter
6 in to -- to Mr. Myers. And appreciate the very
7 succinct presentations from DHEC. So those
8 comments are on file, but there's four pages of
9 concern after concern after concern. And I think
10 that we all -- the neighbors all share these kinds
11 of concerns. That's all I want to say. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Would anyone else like to speak
13 tonight? Please raise your hand.

14 Okay. Since no one wishes to speak, the
15 comment portion of this hearing is now closed.

16 On behalf of SCDES, I would like to thank you
17 for attending and sharing your comments. All
18 comments will be reviewed and, if necessary,
19 additional information may be requested by the
20 applicant.

21 A decision to approve or deny the permit will
22 then be issued. At that time, a summary response
23 to comments and the final decision will be sent to
24 everyone on the mailing list and will be posted
25 online.

1 If you would like to receive this notice by
2 certified mail, please submit that request in -- in
3 writing by April 3rd, 2026.

4 The time is now 7:23 p.m., and this public
5 hearing is adjourned.

6 (Whereupon, the hearing was
7 concluded at 7:23 p.m.)

8 (*This transcript may contain quoted material.
9 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted
10 by the speaker.)

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

