



SC DEPARTMENT *of*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

# General Concrete Permit Public Meeting & Public Hearing

February 26, 2026

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**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

Proposed General Concrete Permits  
February 26, 2026, 6:00 PM-6:50 PM



To avoid echoing or feedback, all lines are muted.



At the end of the presentation, we will unmute and call upon those who signed up to speak.



This virtual hearing will be recorded and posted on our webpage.

# Agenda

- 6 pm: Public Meeting
    - Presentation & Information Sharing
    - Opportunity for questions and facilitated discussions
  - 7 pm: Public Hearing
    - Formal Proceeding
    - Oral comments received
    - Not interactive
    - Time-limited
- 





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# **General Concrete Permit Public Meeting**

February 26, 2026

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# Presentation Overview

- Overview of General Permits
- Concrete Plants
  - Emissions and Opacity
  - Control Technology Requirements
- Overseeing Compliance
- Proposed Changes
  - Dust Control Plan
- Comments Received



# General Permits



# Purpose of General Permit

- General Permit
  - Designed for industry sectors with similar equipment, control technology, and air emissions
  - Facilities are required to request coverage
  - Department maintains and publishes a list of each facility that is granted coverage
- General Construction Permit
  - Grant permission to construct facilities that have similar proposed operations
- General Operating Permit
  - Cover facilities that have similar operations after they have constructed under the general construction permit and begin operating

# Draft General Concrete Air Permit

State and Federal Regulations are established to be protective of the environment and public health

Restricts emissions to less than 250.0 tons per year (tpy) of PM and less than 100.0 tpy of PM<sub>10</sub> to avoid major source thresholds

Recordkeeping, reporting and/or testing requirements to demonstrate compliance

# Concrete Plants



# Concrete vs Cement Plants

## Cement Plants

- Cement plants manufacture raw cement
- Cement Plants use high temperature cement kilns

## Concrete Plants

- Concrete plants manufacture concrete
- Concrete plants load, store, and use cement to produce concrete
- Concrete plants **do not** use or contain cement kilns

# Concrete Plants

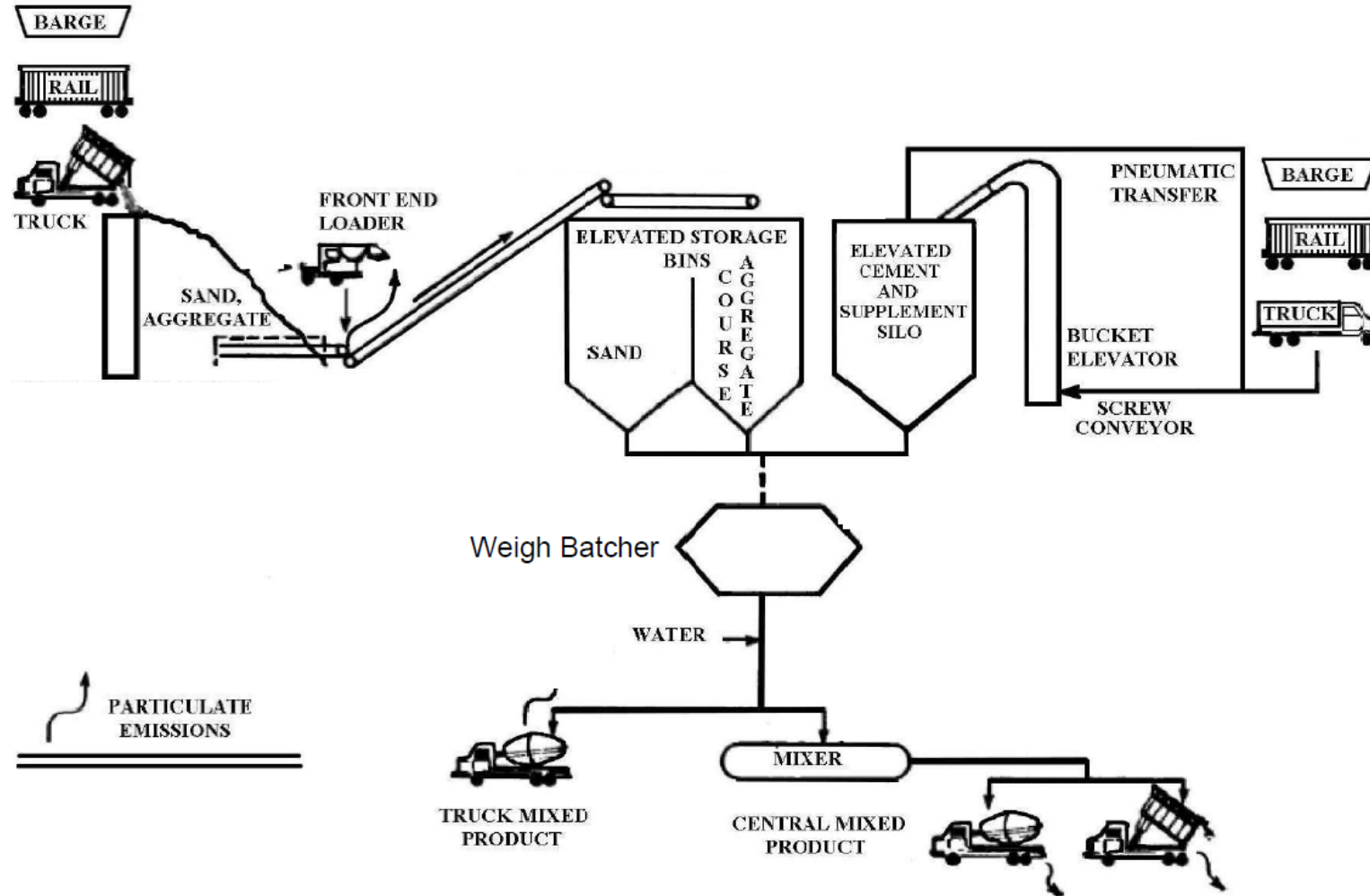
## Types of Concrete Plants

- Central Mix
- Truck Mix
- Volumetric Mix
- Pug mill

## Concrete Plant Components

- Aggregate Bins
- Conveyers
- Loadouts
- Mixers
- Silos
- Weigh Batchers

# Concrete Plant Flow Diagram



# Concrete Plant Examples

Portable Concrete Plant



Stationary Concrete Plant



# Emissions and Opacity



# Process Emissions

- Concrete plants primarily produce dust emissions
- PM, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> are the significant regulated pollutants from process equipment
- Control technology is required to help minimize and limit emissions

# Particulate Matter

Mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets

PM<sub>10</sub>: Inhalable particles, with diameters 10 microns (μm) and smaller

PM<sub>2.5</sub>: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters 2.5 μm and smaller

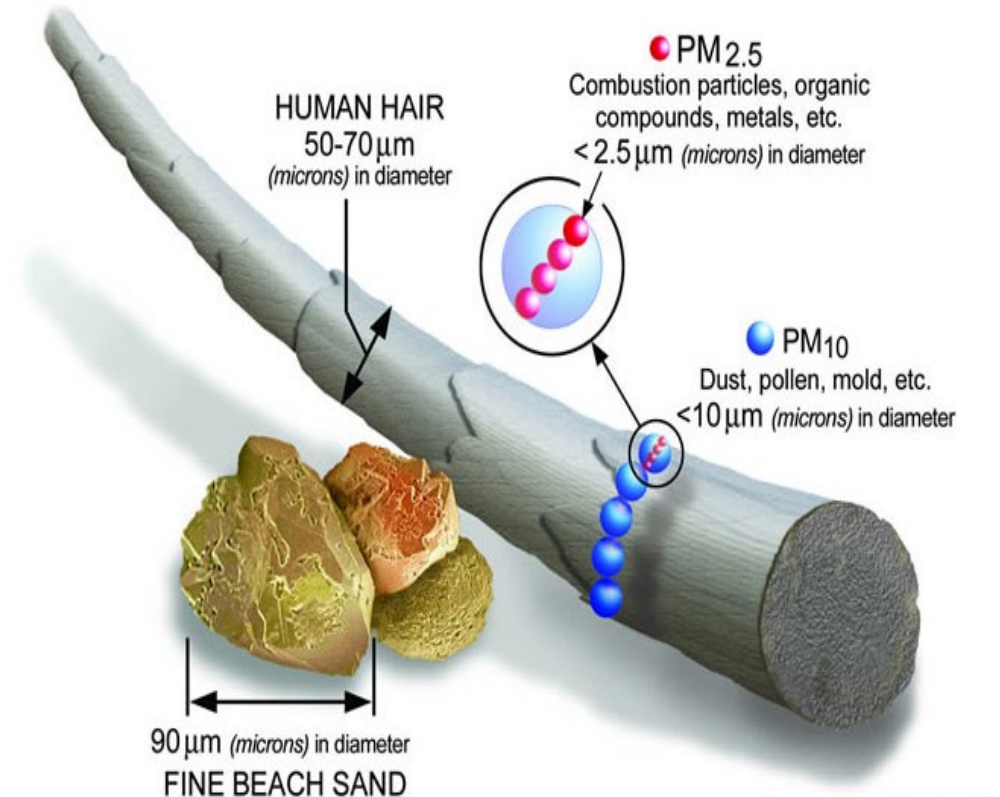


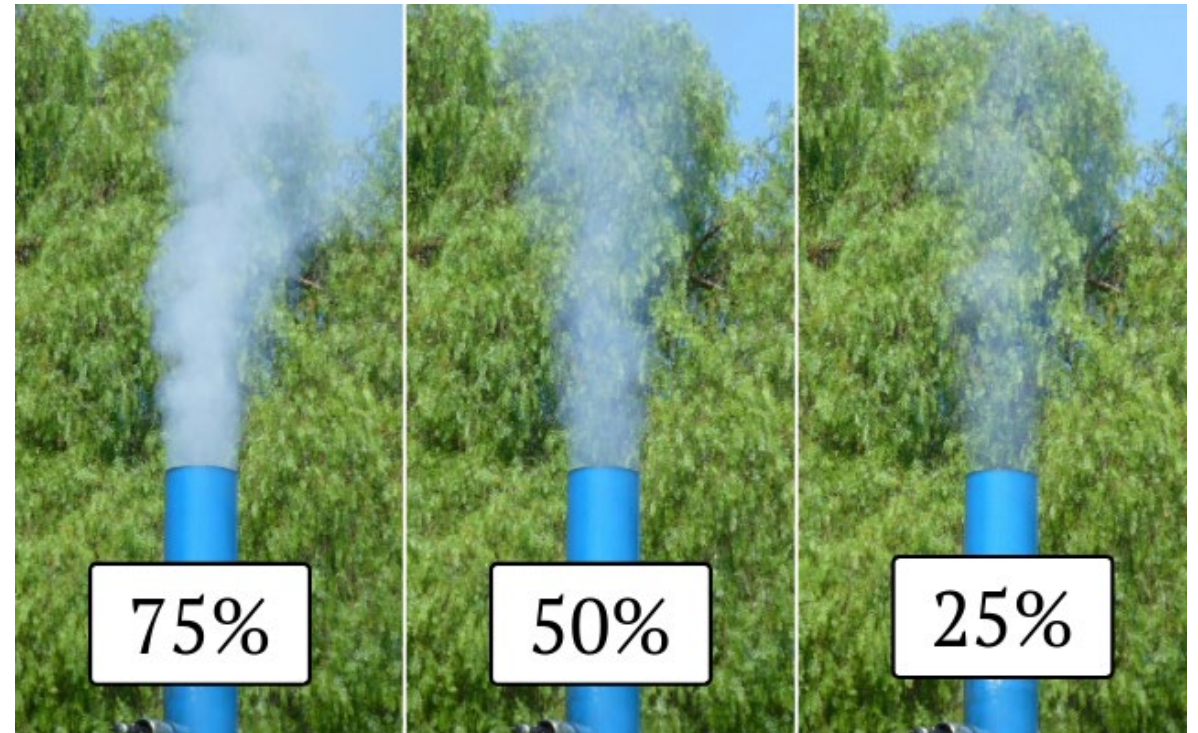
Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA

# Additional Process Emissions

- Admixture Tanks
- Fuel combustion devices
  - Generators
  - Boiler/Heaters
- Temporary/portable crushing and screening equipment for nonmetallic minerals processing

# Opacity Limits

- Opacity is the measure of how much light is blocked
- 20% facility-wide opacity limit (includes dust from process equipment, storage piles, and on-site truck traffic)



# Fugitive Emissions

- Particulate Matter that enters the atmosphere without first passing through a stack or duct designed to direct or control its flow
- Sources of fugitive dust include
  - Access roads
  - Material handling and transfer
  - Open areas
  - Storage piles
  - Transportation



# Control Technology Requirements



# Control Technology Requirements

- Baghouse filters or fabric collectors must be used for silos and conveyors.
- Enclosed or covered conveyors to minimize dust.
- Water spray systems or other dust suppression for roads and open areas.
- Daily maintenance and inspections of control equipment.

# Control Device Examples

Silo Top Control Device



Central Dust Collector



# Overseeing Compliance



# Overseeing Compliance

- Once a permit is issued, SCDES inspects facilities to ensure compliance with its permit conditions by:
  - Conducting unannounced compliance inspections
  - Reviewing the operation and maintenance records
  - Reviewing the annual emissions reporting

# Overseeing Compliance

- If a facility is determined to be non-compliant, SCDES may pursue enforcement actions. The actions may result in:
  - Corrective orders or fines.
  - Implementation of additional controls and/or upgrades
  - Limits to concrete production or operating hours

# Proposed Changes



# Fugitive Dust Control Plan

- Purpose: new requirement for all plants to control fugitive emissions
  - This plan was added with this proposed permit in response to dust concerns.
- For new and existing sources, the fugitive dust plan shall be implemented within 30 days of approval



# Fugitive Dust Control Plan

- At a minimum, the plan must address:
  - Water truck operations
  - Sprinkler system operations
  - Material stockpiling procedures
  - Containment of material spills from process equipment and trucks
  - Access road speed limits
  - Excessive opacity
  - Alternative dust control methods, if applicable



# Fugitive Dust Control Plan

- Alternative control methods include but not limited to:
  - Approved chemical dust suppressant
  - Conveyor covers
  - Storage pile enclosures
  - Street sweeping
  - Wheel wash stations
  - Windbreaks and fencing



# Conditions Removed

- Temporary Crushing and Screening Operations (TCSO) requirements
  - No longer covered under this general permit
  - Must be permitted under the Registration Permit for TCSO, regardless of equipment ownership or operator
- Fuel Usage and Fuel Burning Provisions
  - Addressed on a case-by-case basis through facility-specific permit attachments



# Comments Received



# Comments Received: Air Quality Specific

Comments were received expressing concerns about:

- Air quality and possible health impacts
- Facility specific considerations
- Removal of fuel burning and crushing requirements

# Comments Received: Other

Comments were received concerning:

- Wildlife and nearby waterways
- Truck traffic
- Quality of life
- Property values

# Additional Resources

- Dedicated webpage: <https://des.sc.gov/concretegeneralpermits>
- South Carolina Concrete Batch Facilities Fact Sheet

# Next Steps In BAQ Process



Public comment period ends on March 3<sup>rd</sup>



Make a final decision and provide a written response to comments



30-day period from final decision date to appeal the permit decision to the ALC

# How to Provide Comments



Recorded comments at tonight's public hearing



Email

[AirPNComments@des.sc.gov](mailto:AirPNComments@des.sc.gov)



By US Mail:

SCDES Bureau of Air Quality,  
2600 Bull St  
Columbia, SC 29201



ePermitting Portal  
"Air Permitting  
Division"

**Written Comments may be submitted until Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

# Submitting Public Comments



Comments can be submitted through  
Air Permitting Division, via web at:

Construction Permit

<https://des.sc.gov/AirConstructionPermitNotice>

Operating Permit

<https://des.sc.gov/AirOperatingPermitNotice>



Search “Air Permitting Division” under “Site”



# Environmental Public Notices

Home > Community > Community Engagement > Environmental Public Notices

Are you interested in attending an upcoming public hearing or meeting about a permit application under consideration by SCDES staff? To find public meeting dates and details, simply search our interactive public notice directory. You can [search by county](#), project name, or SCDES program.

You can also use our [interactive mapping application](#) to learn about public notices. Simply select the map, use your current location, or enter an address to find information about public notices near you or your area of interest.

SEARCH BY GIS LOCATION

SEE LATEST PUBLIC NOTICES

*Please note: All permit applications for activities within 401 Water Quality Certification, Air, Agriculture, Construction in Navigable Waters, Groundwater Withdrawal, Mining, Solid Waste, Stormwater, BCM's Critical Areas, Coastal Zone Consistency Stormwater and Wastewater-NPDES, General NPDES Permits, and ND Permits will be placed on public notice at the following website: <https://epermitting.des.sc.gov/ext/ncore/external/publicnotice/search>.*

Activities related to BCM's Coastal Zone Consistency requests for program areas other than Stormwater will continue to be placed on public notice on this site until further notice.



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# Get In Touch

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Additional information can be found at:  
[WWW.des.sc.gov/ConcreteGeneralPermits](http://WWW.des.sc.gov/ConcreteGeneralPermits)

@SouthCarolinaDES





# How to Participate

To indicate you would like to speak:

- Click the 'Hand Raise' icon
- Dial \*5 if you called in



Hand Raise  
(click this icon to  
indicate you would like  
to speak)



Muted  
(no one in the meeting  
can hear you)



Unmuted  
(everyone in the  
meeting can hear you)



If you have called into  
the meeting, press \*5  
to raise your hand



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# **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **Proposed General Operating & Construction Permit**

**February 26, 2026 | 7:00 PM**

- Initial public notice and comment period:  
Sept. 23 – Oct. 22, 2025
- Comment period extended through:  
March 3, 2026

This hearing is being recorded and will be part of the official permit record, along with all written comments submitted through the end of the public notice period.

Recording will be available at:

[www.des.sc.gov/concretegeneralpermits](http://www.des.sc.gov/concretegeneralpermits)



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