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South Carolina)	
Department of)	Transcript
Environmental Services)	
)	of
In Re:)	
Martin Marietta)	Public Hearing
Materials, Inc. Rock)	
Hill Quarry)	
)	
)	

Date: May 1st, 2025

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Location: Rock Hill Operations Center, 757 Anderson
Road South, Rock Hill, South Carolina

Reported by
Breanna Sharper

COPY

APPEARANCES

Hearing Officer: Catherine A. Sawyer, SCDES

SCDES Officials Present: Colby Myers

Speakers from the public:

Jason Hinckley
Deborah Thompson
Candace Thompson
Sharon Bailey
Corey Goldstein
Margaret Simpson
Johnnie Ragsdale
Melika Mason
Darron Woods
Bobby Allen Jr.
Perry Sutton
Treka Isom

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Good evening once again. The
3 time is now 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st, 2025, and
4 this public hearing will now begin. This public
5 hearing is being held by the South Carolina
6 Department of Environmental Services, also known as
7 SCDES, to accept comments and supporting
8 information on the application submitted by Martin
9 Marietta Materials, Incorporated, to modify their
10 permit to mine granite at a site located on
11 Hawkfield Road in York County, approximately three
12 miles southwest of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

13 As a formal proceeding, the purpose of this
14 hearing is to accept oral comments from the
15 audience and record them for the official record.
16 Therefore, SCDES staff will not be responding to
17 questions or comments during the hearing.

18 A written transcript will be prepared by the
19 certified court reporter. This transcript will
20 serve as the official record of the public hearing
21 and will be posted on the Department's web page
22 when available. The web page address is
23 des.sc.gov/rockhillquarry, and it will be updated
24 with information as it becomes available.

25 Again, my name is Catherine Sawyer, and I will

1 serve as your hearing officer tonight. Thank you
2 for taking the time to be here for this important
3 step in SCDES's permitting process. Before I go
4 over how we will proceed, there are a couple of
5 items I would like to address. First, I would ask
6 that you please silence your cell phones or other
7 electronic devices so that others are not disturbed
8 during this hearing. Next, if you have not already
9 done so, I encourage each of you to sign in at the
10 table located out front. We would like to have a
11 complete record of everyone here tonight. We have
12 asked for your mailing or e-mail address on the
13 sign-in sheet to -- so that we know how to notify
14 you of future information regarding the proposed
15 quarry.

16 The permitting process at SCDES begins when an
17 application is received for one or more
18 environmental permits. During this process, an
19 applicant must show that its proposed operation can
20 comply with all applicable state and federal
21 regulations. These regulations have been written
22 to ensure that human health and the environment are
23 protected. In addition to reviewing the
24 application, the Department's role is to write and,
25 if issued, enforce permits that meet the

1 requirements of the regulations.

2 You also have a role in the SCDES's permitting
3 process. That's what brings us here tonight: to
4 receive your comments formally, for the record.
5 Although a final permit decision cannot be made
6 based on a vote or how many people say the same
7 thing, your comments are important and may
8 influence the terms and conditions written in the
9 permit if one is issued. Comments and concerns
10 given here tonight as well as those submitted in
11 writing by the end of the public comment period are
12 welcome and encouraged.

13 A presentation on the proposed mine and
14 SCDES's permitting process was provided by Colby
15 Myers during the public meeting held at 5:30. This
16 presentation will be made available on our webpage
17 before the end of the public comment period.

18 We will now move on to the order in which
19 we'll proceed with this hearing. A brief statement
20 about the proposed mine will be read for the record
21 by Colby Myers. I will then begin the public
22 comment portion of the evening by calling on those
23 of you who indicated on the sign-in sheet that you
24 would like to make a comment. If you have decided
25 that you no longer wish to comment when you are

1 called upon, you may decline at that time. Once
2 everyone has had a chance to speak, I will ask if
3 anyone else in attendance would like to make a
4 comment. After all comments have been heard, I
5 will make closing remarks and this public hearing
6 will be adjourned.

7 For everyone to have a fair and equal
8 opportunity to participate tonight and to ensure
9 that we proceed in a timely and effective manner,
10 the following four guidelines have been
11 established. First, no questions will be answered
12 during the public hearing.

13 Second, your comment should not go over three
14 minutes per individual or five minutes for elected
15 officials and those speaking on behalf of an
16 organized group. I will remind you if you do not
17 conclude your comments in that time. If you're
18 unable to present all your comments within the
19 allotted time, please remember that you may still
20 submit them to SCDES in writing by the close of the
21 public comment period.

22 Third, please be respectful towards anyone
23 speaking here tonight. You each have a unique and
24 valued perspective. No one comment is considered
25 more important than another.

1 And fourth, please do not interrupt or ask
2 other participants to respond to your comments.
3 Should any comments or actions begin to move away
4 from the intent of this hearing, I may ask the
5 speaker to limit their statements and be seated.

6 I will now call on Colby Myers to read a brief
7 statement about the mine operating permit
8 application.

9 MR. MYERS: On December 20th, 2022, Martin Marietta
10 Materials, Incorporated, submitted an application
11 to modify their mine operating permit for the Rock
12 Hill Quarry in York County. The modification
13 request is to increase the permitted acreage from
14 320.6 acres to the 738.3 acres. The reclamation
15 plan will require the operator to reclaim the site
16 as grasslands and lake.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: As we transition to the comment
18 portion of this public hearing, I would like to
19 reiterate that SCDES staff are here to listen to
20 your comments. Answers or responses to questions
21 will not be provided tonight. All comments made
22 during this hearing are being recorded. If you're
23 unable to complete your comments within the three-
24 minute allotted time, you may submit them in
25 writing through the end of the public comment

1 period on May 16th, 2025.

2 We will now hear from those of you who
3 indicated on the sign-in sheet that you would like
4 to speak tonight. You will call -- be called upon
5 in random order. Please clearly state and spell
6 your name for the court reporter before you begin
7 speaking.

8 Is Jason Hinckley here?

9 MR. HINCKLEY: Yes.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay.

11 MR HINCKLEY: Hello, my name is Jason Hinckley,

12 J-a-s-o-n H-i-n-c-k-l-e-y. I stand before y'all
13 tonight, not just as a resident of Rock Hill, but
14 also as a concerned citizen, concerned neighbor.
15 We, I feel, are a community that values our peace,
16 our natural beauty, and the future of Rock Hill.
17 I'm going to voice strong opposition to the
18 proposed expansion to the quarry near Rock Hill.
19 This is not just a matter of business growth. This
20 is a matter of our homes, our health, and the
21 delicate balance of the environment that makes this
22 area so special.

23 Let's begin with the most personal impact.
24 That would be our property. Dust, noise,
25 vibrations from blasting operations are not just an

1 inconvenience. They directly affect the quality of
2 our life and the value of our properties.
3 Continuous noise pollution will disrupt our
4 peaceful surroundings. The dust can -- the dust
5 can coat our homes, vehicles, and even seep into
6 our air systems. More importantly, these blasts
7 can damage our foundations, crack walls, and weaken
8 structures. Who will be responsible for that? Not
9 the quarry.

10 Now let's talk about the water. Rock Hill
11 residents rely on clean ground water in nearby
12 streams. Quarry operations can contaminate these
13 sources with sediment and industrial runoff,
14 especially during heavy rains. Lowering the water
15 table to extract stone can even dry out wells and
16 affect access to water for all the residents.

17 But perhaps, the most irreplaceable loss is
18 that of the wildlife. Me and Melika, we live in a
19 very rural area of Rock Hill with an abundance of
20 wildlife; woodpeckers, as I stated earlier, being
21 an extinct species -- or not extinct, but
22 endangered species. My mistake. The forest
23 surrounding this area of our home is abundant in
24 deer, foxes, birds of prey, countless smaller
25 species that depend on this land for shelter, food,

1 survival.

2 The expansion of the quarry will strip away
3 habitat, drive animals from their homes,
4 potentially endanger species already struggling to
5 adapt to shrinking green spaces. We're not against
6 progress, but we ask progress for whom? For a
7 corporation that profits from blasting the land or
8 for the families who built their lives here, who
9 have raised children under these guys, who expect
10 to breathe clean air and drink clean water.

11 I urge the state to look in our favor on this
12 subject and limit this expansion. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. Next up to speak is
14 Dennis Featherstone. Would you still like to
15 speak?

16 MR. FEATHERSTONE: I decline.

17 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: You decline? All right. Wanda
18 Featherstone?

19 MS. FEATHERSTONE: I decline.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: You decline? Deborah Thompson?

21 MS. DEBORAH THOMPSON: My name is Deborah Thompson,
22 D-e-b-o-r-a-h T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n, and I live on
23 Castlewood Circle. I've been down on Castlewood
24 Circle for 63 years. My neighborhood right now is
25 comprised of mostly seniors, because they've had --

1 they moved in that home in their '50s, and those
2 that are still there have raised their families;
3 they're still there. So my main concern is not
4 just for my health, but the health of the seniors
5 in my neighborhood, the noise that's -- at
6 sometimes is very loud. It has broken things in my
7 house. Things have fallen off my walls because of
8 the shaking. The vibration has been so strong. I
9 have broken picture frames. I had to take my
10 crystal and pack it back up because I broke several
11 pieces.

12 The dust, I developed asthma in -- when I was
13 40 years old. And since then my asthma has
14 increased. It's more than it was then. So the
15 dust is very disruptive to me. My vent is right at
16 my bedroom, so that means it's coming through my
17 vents.

18 I had to replace my floors. That house was
19 built in 1999. 2017, because of shifting and I
20 don't know what else going on, I had to replace all
21 the floors in my house. That was not cheap,
22 especially for a house that wasn't even that old,
23 but I had to replace my floors. I'm in need of
24 replacing them again right now, but I can't afford
25 it.

1 So I am very much opposed to that -- to that
2 expansion. That quarry is right in my back door.
3 That's how close it is to me. If I would walk
4 through the path, I'd walk right up on it because
5 that's how close it is to me. And not just for me,
6 but for my neighbors, I want us to live a quality
7 of life that we should be living at the age we've
8 gotten to be now. We don't need to have any excess
9 noise or disruption. These should be our best days
10 now. So I am very much opposed to that expansion.
11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, ma'am. Next is
13 Candace Thompson?

14 MS. CANDACE THOMPSON: Hi there. I'm Candace Thompson.
15 My name is spelled C-a-n-d-a-c-e T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.
16 I have been a lifelong resident of Rock Hill, South
17 Carolina, my entire life. For over the past 20-
18 plus years, my neighbors and I have felt tremors.
19 I didn't know that those were caused by the quarry.
20 But nonetheless, the noise, the dust, the water,
21 our enjoyment of our properties, our values, those
22 things are going to be affected.

23 I sell real estate here in Rock Hill, South
24 Carolina, and the anxiety that's going to be caused
25 by the quarry expansion is going to be harmful to

1 us and to our properties.

2 This proposed expansion will bring that impact
3 closer to our homes, and it'll be in some of our
4 back doors, and we're already feeling the effects
5 of what's going on in our area. Many of us have
6 already experienced foundation issues. We have
7 cracks in our walls, cracks in our foundation.
8 Some of us have noticed the changes in the pressure
9 within the area, and, you know, those are things
10 that we are concerned. And long-term impacts on
11 wells, the underground lines, and things of that
12 nature that affect our environment.

13 The constant blasting noise isn't just loud;
14 it's a nuisance that shakes our homes and our peace
15 of mind. It's something that you don't ever want
16 to get used to, especially when it's unpredictable.

17 We're not against industry, but we are for
18 safety, for stability, for the basic quality of
19 life. For the expansion pushes blasting beyond
20 that half-mile radius is putting it closer to our
21 properties. That's too close. It's time for us to
22 ask: What's being done to protect us as residents,
23 as people? I know that protecting the wildlife is
24 just as important, but what are we doing to protect
25 the residents of Rock Hill and the people who have

1 properties that are close by?

2 We need independent inspections of our home,
3 and we're -- and I would like to put on record that
4 I would like Martin Marietta to do independent
5 inspections of everybody's homes that have already
6 been affected by the -- that -- the different
7 things that they've been doing over the last 40-
8 plus years.

9 We need transparent data on this blasting
10 impact, because, as we've heard earlier, they're
11 not providing this information for the seismic
12 readings from the state, from their independent
13 third-party readings. We need transparency.

14 We need to stand firm with our commitment,
15 because the damages that are being caused is -- is
16 an injustice to the residents of South Carolina.
17 What compensation will Martin Marietta Quarry give
18 to the residents whose properties have already
19 suffered long-term damages from the blasting that's
20 been done for 40-plus years?

21 Please do not approve this expansion without a
22 real safeguard for the families and the residents
23 who have already borne the brunt of this operation
24 for decades. We are not just numbers on a map. We
25 are neighbors and we deserve protection.

1 HEARING OFFICER CATHERINE SAWYER: Thank you, ma'am.

2 Gloria Hubert?

3 MS. HUBERT: I decline.

4 HEARING OFFICER CATHERINE SAWYER: You decline? All
5 right. Sharon Bailey?

6 MS. BAILEY: I'm Sharon Bailey, and my name is spelled
7 S-h-a-r-o-n, B-a-i-l-e-y. And what I would like to
8 say is that I do not want the expansion. And I
9 want to also say that I feel that the process for
10 monitoring the blasting is inadequate. You know,
11 it's -- and, also, we know that the review of the
12 blasting is done once a year or when someone
13 complains about it, and I think it needs to be done
14 more frequently. And, also, those reports made
15 available to anyone that needs -- that wants to see
16 it.

17 Also, I -- I don't think there's a -- a clear
18 representative who represents the homeowners. You
19 know, we're scrambling and complaining to Martin
20 Marietta. They're -- they're just trying to do
21 their business, but the City is supposed to be
22 protecting the landowners, and I don't see that.

23 Also, you know, there's no -- no clear
24 recourse. You know, where we do we go? You know,
25 we're told that it would go to the planning

1 department for the City of Rock Hall, but they're
2 not even having a hearing for this, so, you know,
3 what do we do?

4 And so I just feel that, you know, there's no
5 clear recourse; our quality of life is affected,
6 and we just -- we -- it -- things need to be
7 better. This whole process, it's just -- to me, is
8 inadequate.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, ma'am. All right.

10 Next is Jacob Struss. Decline? Corey Goldstein?
11 All righty. All right. Please state and spell
12 your name for the reporter.

13 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure. Good evening. Corey, C-o-r-e-y,
14 Goldstein, G-o-l-d-s-t-e-i-n. So good afternoon,
15 good evening. I've been in communication a great
16 deal with Martin Marietta and DHEC on this. I'm
17 involved with DHEC on a number of issues.

18 Development -- I'm a real estate developer. And I
19 have -- I have a number of acres in the Blackmon
20 Road area. (To the crowd) Anybody familiar with
21 Blackmon Road area?

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. So over the last three years I've
25 been really cleaning up the neighborhood and

1 committed to making a difference there. And like
2 you, I've experienced over the last, oh, gosh,
3 probably four months, closer and closer -- I was in
4 my office. I work off of the -- in -- on the
5 property, and there was a blast -- there were two
6 blasts, one in January and one in February, that
7 shook my building, shook my windows, and woke my
8 dog up out of a complete dead nap. And I have
9 actually a seismograph on my property that was
10 installed by an organization of geologists, I
11 believe, in Fort Mill. And I also have a
12 commercial building at that property, too. And I'd
13 like to give you my address because I think that
14 maybe if you'd like to have a community meeting at
15 one of my buildings, we can have a conversation and
16 discuss it.

17 I'm -- I'm for progress. I'm for income. I'm
18 for everybody making money. And I have some real
19 concerns about the direction of the plant long
20 term. Over the next 20 years, I see a closer and
21 closer proximity to my water well and your water
22 well. As a matter of fact, I'm having problems
23 right now with DHEC because my well's been impacted
24 by a couple of recent blasts. So the aquifer has
25 changed. The quality of the ground underneath has

1 shifted. I've spent \$18,000 in an evaluation to
2 come up with nothing. And so I've got a real
3 concern of being not only in the community now,
4 wanting to make a difference in the community, and
5 looking to transform an organization. Looking to
6 transform the -- the -- the projects that I have
7 because I have no direct city water and sewer.

8 (To the crowd) Does everybody have city water
9 and sewer inside Rock Hill?

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Nope.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Any -- who's on a well? Okay. A number
12 of people on wells. (To the crowd) Have you
13 noticed a change in your -- in your quality of
14 water or --

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: -- the aquifer level, the water
17 pressure? So I would invite you -- I -- I'd love
18 to give you my e-mail address and invite you to
19 come to my location, and we can have a community
20 meeting if you'd like to discuss it. I'm certainly
21 open to that. My name, again, is Corey. And if
22 you have a -- a pen, my e-mail is
23 corey@fixmyreport.com. I can give you my -- my --
24 I have a credit repair business in California, too,
25 so I'm a little busy on stuff, but I'll give you my

1 phone number. It's -- which is (619)993-3553. And
2 I would just like to invite, you know, an
3 opportunity for further discussion about this kind
4 of stuff with DHEC or without DHEC, I'm open to a
5 conversation because I'm committed that -- that
6 this problem and our problems get addressed
7 properly. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Next up is Terrence Stevenson?

9 MR. STEVENSON: Decline.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline? Lucille Stevenson?

11 MS. STEVENSON: Decline.

12 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline. Harold Stevenson?

13 Decline. Taylor Steele?

14 MR. STEELE: Decline.

15 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline. Margaret Simpson?

16 MS. SIMPSON: My name is Margaret Simpson,

17 M-a-r-g-a-r-e-t S-i-m-p-s-o-n. All right. I'm --

18 I just wanted to say that all of my life I have
19 lived on Mecca Trail, which is right back of the
20 quarry. And my whole family lives in that area.

21 We inherited that land through our hardworking
22 slave grandparents. They would -- they shed blood,
23 tears, just hard workers. And, you know, I'm proud
24 to live there. I don't plan to live anywhere else
25 because I think about what they had to go through

1 to have that land.

2 And I -- I don't want to just see it become a
3 place that we are not able to live and have family.
4 Right now, our family get together. We have
5 cookouts. We enjoy that property. And I hate to
6 just see someone wanting to make a lot of money
7 come in and damage our homes, you know? Hey, we
8 might not can afford no more. So I want you to
9 really think about that. Put yourself in our
10 place, and just be -- let the Lord be your guide.
11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKERS FROM CROWD: Amen.

13 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, ma'am. Gladys
14 Allen?

15 MS. ALLEN: Decline.

16 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline? Johnnie Ragsdale?

17 MS. RAGSDALE: Yeah. I'm going to say something.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay.

19 MS. RAGSDALE: I decline. My name is Johnnie,
20 J-o-h-n-n-i-e, Ragsdale, R-a-g-s-d-a-l-e. And I've
21 been living in Southland since 1979. And I've seen
22 the changes, the cracks in the foundation and the
23 blasting and the noise. And, you know, I'm
24 thinking of our future generations to come. If
25 this -- if these things are happening now, with

1 that expansion, it's going to get worse. They said
2 they use some kind of chemicals to blast with. Is
3 that not getting into the atmosphere, you know, the
4 water and -- you know, it's going to be real
5 dangerous.

6 And what I think they should do is don't
7 rezone that land -- don't zone that land for
8 residential. What they need to do is have a radius
9 around. And the damage that's already been done,
10 give the people an option to sell their homes if
11 they want to leave. And, you know, something
12 should -- major should be done because the fact is
13 it's going to get worse before it get better. And
14 we won't be around to see -- Jesus going to be done
15 come. So, you know, that's all I got to say.

16 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you. Melika Mason?

17 MS. MASON: Hi. My name is Melika Mason, M-e-l-i-k-a,
18 Mason, M-a-s-o-n. I've lived on and built my house
19 in 2013, and I built that house with my own two
20 hands. I bent the rebar, all of that. And I know
21 what's in the dirt. And I know what's there. I've
22 dug in it, been there, and I can tell you there are
23 woodpeckers. I hear them outside my window when
24 the -- when I leave the windows open. Man, those
25 things are really annoying, but I hear the

1 woodpeckers. What specific woodpecker, I don't
2 know, but I'm going to find out if it's this -- the
3 endangered woodpecker here. And I've seen those
4 sunflowers. My goats love those short sunflowers
5 because they like to grow underneath the
6 powerlines. And I was shocked, "Oh, there's these
7 pretty sunflowers," and -- well, the goats really
8 like them, too. But if they're on my property, my
9 property touches the quarry. That means they're
10 there, too.

11 My well is probably, oh, maybe, 75 feet from
12 where they want to start -- maybe 150 feet from
13 where they want to start blasting. Tell me that my
14 well is not going to be affected; my water table is
15 not going to be impacted. And the only way I'm
16 ever going to know is when I get sick, my animals
17 get sick, I have no water. Then what? How do I
18 shower? How do I boil water? I mean, there's --
19 how do I make dinner?

20 You know, all those things that, "Okay. Well,
21 they've got to make it right." Well, I've got to
22 find out something's wrong before they can make it
23 right, and I don't really want to find out.

24 I do know my neighbors. They're my family,
25 and they've lived here forever. And I can tell you

1 they've had to deal with this blasting for 50
2 years. And it's not gotten better; not necessarily
3 gotten worse, but they've had to deal with that,
4 and you want to put it even closer. I mean, it's -
5 - you guys are literally going to be blasting 200
6 feet from my house, and that's with the berms and
7 the setbacks and all of that.

8 I already have cracks in my foundation.
9 Martin Marietta's come out. They looked at things.
10 And they did not notify me of any expansions or any
11 permit modifications. And I did own that property
12 during that time, so why? I don't know. I'm glad
13 that we're now following the processes put in place
14 that there's no transparency. Hopefully, there can
15 be some transparency.

16 Hopefully, we'll -- we'll find some
17 woodpeckers and some sunflowers and we're all going
18 to go out through the woods now and look for all
19 these fun things. Hopefully, the State will start
20 looking during the seasons that the flowers are
21 actually blooming instead of in the winter and
22 spring when they're not blooming. Why don't we
23 wait till the fall? What hurt -- what harm is
24 that? Push it out a little bit further. You know,
25 I'm sure you'll find the sunflowers out there.

1 That's all I have to say.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you. Darron Woods?

3 There you go.

4 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Uh-huh.

6 MR. WOODS: Hello. My name is Darron Woods, D-a-r-r-o-n
7 W-o-o-d-s. And I'm a young homeowner in Southland.
8 I'm in real estate, as well. And one of my main
9 reasons for purchasing my property is because I've
10 noticed a lot of people gain wealth through real
11 estate. And I have three young kids, and I try to
12 teach them on starting young with setting up their
13 future. And one of my biggest concerns is what are
14 the values going to look like. Because now, if I
15 was to get rid of my property or even rent it to
16 someone, I would need to let them know, "Hey, be
17 aware that there's a quarry here." Because when I
18 purchased, no one told me, you know.

19 And -- and like this gentleman said, his dog
20 was awakened. I have pets, also. And, you know,
21 they -- they're disturbed, too. My kids are, too.
22 And the thing is it's not like it's, oh, on a
23 schedule every Friday at three o'clock you're going
24 to hear a blast. It just comes out of the blue.

25 And I've owned the property since 2018, and

1 the thing is, to be honest, I -- I think it's --
2 has gotten worser -- worse -- I think it has gotten
3 worse these past two years, and that's before any
4 expansion. I think the last meeting we went to
5 they said that it was going to be a long, long time
6 before it reached closer to the neighborhood, but
7 that's -- this is not a situation we need to kick
8 the ball down the road to. I think we need to go
9 ahead and make a decision and end it now.

10 I didn't even think about the water quality,
11 but that's going to be a -- that's a great
12 foundation.

13 The thing is with real estate right now, the
14 area of Rock Hill, we're blessed to have the values
15 and the properties that we currently have. But
16 with this issue here, it's going to hurt our
17 values. That's going to be money that's taken out
18 of our pockets, taken out of generational wealth,
19 and who's going to pay for that, you know? Homes
20 aren't cheap and when it's time to repair
21 something, we can't call this quarry and say, "Hey,
22 we need \$40,000 towards foundation or 15 grand
23 towards a well.

24 I do thank everyone that's involved in putting
25 this hearing together, because it does make me feel

1 like someone is listening, but I guess I'd be real
2 interested in staying up to speed on, once this
3 hearing is over, is this it? You know, is this
4 just something to kind of satisfy the neighbors at
5 this point, or when is there going to be a final
6 decision made, and what is there else for us to do
7 to continue to try to push back on it? Like
8 everyone else said, I'm sure no one here is opposed
9 to them making money, but if they've been there
10 this long, using the land that they've already been
11 using, I'm sure they can sustain more doing --
12 continue to do well with the land that they have.
13 By them expanding is only going to work better for
14 them, but hurt us. And that's pretty much all I
15 have to say.

16 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, sir. Bobby Allen?

17 You can stand right here if you want to, sir.

18 MR. ALLEN: Okay.

19 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: That's fine.

20 MR. ALLEN: Yes. My name is Bobby Allen. It's spelled
21 B-o-b-b-y A-l-l-e-n, Jr. I've been down in
22 Southland Park ever since 1974. And when I first
23 moved down there, it -- it was pretty quiet and
24 decent. And, you know, you could have -- sit
25 outside and not worry about them blasting or

1 nothing. Didn't have to worry about stuff falling
2 off the wall in the house. But then all of a
3 sudden, my driveway gets cracked up, walkway
4 cracked up. Inside, I'm -- I -- we had to get a
5 new stove -- a new cooking stove in the house, and
6 moved the stove and there's a big long crack up
7 under -- up under the foundation in -- of my stove.
8 I've got water lines and drain lines that collapsed
9 and it's no -- no important reason. Now, I don't
10 know why -- what happened. I don't know what
11 caused it. And then a guy telling me -- told me,
12 he say, "Man," said, "that blasting doing that.
13 That blasting tearing your house up, tearing your
14 property up, and just messing you up."

15 And I complained to the City one time about it
16 a while back. Wasn't nothing -- wasn't nothing
17 done about it. I stayed and showed the guy where
18 -- where my brick was cracked on the side of my
19 house. Wasn't -- wasn't nothing about -- wasn't
20 nothing done about it. So I didn't know what to
21 do. I still don't know what to do. But I know one
22 thing, I'm going to oppose this. I don't think
23 they need to expand -- this company need to expand
24 and make money while we going to all lose money or
25 have to replace something that they tore up.

1 That's all I have to say.

2 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, sir. Mallory
3 Sparks?

4 MS. SPARKS: I decline.

5 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline. Carolyn Dingle?

6 MS. DINGLE: I decline.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline. Perry Sutton?

8 MR. SUTTON: I don't know if I'm declined, but I'm going
9 to saying something.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay. There you go.

11 MR. SUTTON: So I'm your city council member from the
12 City of Rock Hill. Three years ago, when I got on,
13 I started going to the quarries to see what was
14 going on and actually just went back about a month
15 and a half. And I would advise each one of you-all
16 if you get a chance to go down there and see the
17 quarry yourself. The City can't stop this. I've
18 heard somebody said, "The City can do this." The
19 City can't stop it. This is -- that's the State
20 giving them the license. We ain't giving no
21 license.

22 I will say -- I will tell you this in advice.
23 Take pictures of your house, time stamp it. That's
24 the only way you're going to be able to come back
25 get your retribution. If you go in there and say

1 it now that "They damaged my house," and you don't
2 have any proof, I don't think it will work. I
3 don't know. I don't -- I'm not a lawyer. I don't
4 think that would work, but I think if you time
5 stamp your house now -- take pictures and time
6 stamp it, that would help you quite a bit.

7 The other thing I want to pass, is I'm very
8 proud of each one of you-all who came out here.
9 When we -- when we first heard about this, we were
10 walking around in Southland trying to put out a
11 invitation; we missed places. I went to this young
12 lady's house. She deep in the woods. Boy, she's
13 back there. Matter of fact, I think I've been to
14 everyone of you -- you's areas and sit and listened
15 to it. I'm going to tell you something else of
16 what I do. I take a -- when I hear it, I'll put it
17 in my phone and put the time and the date that it
18 happens on the records for yourself.

19 And I'll say this again. I don't think we can
20 stop it. I hope you-all are listening to us. I
21 hope you-all listened to the complaints that
22 everybody's having here, and I hope that we can
23 have more dialogue on ways to satisfy these
24 citizens a little bit better, all right?

25 MS. DINGLE: I do want to say something.

1 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, sir.

2 MS. DINGLE: Can I say something now?

3 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Let me go through the next few

4 that have signed up.

5 MS. DINGLE: Yeah.

6 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: And then I'm going to call

7 for --

8 MS. DINGLE: Okay. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: -- folks at the end if you

10 don't mind. And that --

11 THE COURT REPORTER: The name --

12 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: (To Mr. Sutton) I'm going to

13 spell your name for her since you didn't.

14 MR. SUTTON: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: That's all right. Perry

16 Sutton, P-e-r-r-y S-u-t-t-o-n.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay.

18 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Margaret Whitlock is next.

19 MS. WHITLOCK: Decline.

20 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Decline. Treka Isom?

21 MS. ISOM: It's "I-sum"(phonetic).

22 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: I'm going to take a chance to

23 remind everybody we've got a three-minute speaking

24 limit. Please say and spell your name for the

25 court reporter. Thank you.

1 MS. ISOM: You're welcome. So my name is Treka. You
2 spell it T-r-e-k-a. Last name is Isom, I-s-o-m, as
3 in "Mary." So I stay on Quarter Road, which is a
4 good bits from Southland, and we have been hearing
5 the blasts. We have seen the effects that it's
6 causing, which is, for one, cracks in my wall. I'm
7 noticing that a little bit everywhere around the
8 home, and, you know, I'm listening to everyone else
9 saying it's the same thing. Just thinking about me
10 visibly seeing those cracks, I'm also just really
11 wondering what is happening to things that I cannot
12 see as far as the foundation.

13 Pretty much we're all on the same page, but
14 one thing that really just kind of struck me is "we
15 cannot stop this." (To Mr. Sutton) It's something
16 that you stated. I've e-mailed you plenty of times
17 with pictures and things like that. I guess, if we
18 cannot stop it, it's now to a point where do we all
19 need to get together and maybe seek some type of
20 legal action for damages at this point?

21 With me being a stay-at-home mom and, also, a
22 business owner from my home -- I work outside of my
23 home; I am a -- a stylist -- basically, a hair
24 stylist -- I will dedicate myself to walking and
25 going to Southland and Quarter Road and anywhere

1 else it needs to be done to where we get those
2 numbers accumulated where we need to have it at.
3 At this point, if we can't stop it, great. But
4 there are damages that we are now going through
5 that we are not responsible for.

6 Yes. We want you guys to make money, but not
7 at the cost of us. We're hardworking people, we
8 pay for our houses, we're paying our taxes, and
9 it's just not right for you guys to come in make
10 money and everyone else is unfortunately not
11 getting any benefits -- benefits from it. We're --
12 we're getting damages, and we're being stuck with
13 it. So at the end of the day, you know, again, we
14 can't stop it, great, but I want everyone to know,
15 me personally, I will make sure we go around to
16 everyone that needs to be, you know, spoken with.
17 We're going to get those numbers, those e-mails,
18 those addresses, those photos, those time stamps,
19 and if we need to go ahead and seek legal advice,
20 then we need to come together and make sure that
21 happens. That's pretty much all I had to say.
22 Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you, ma'am. Javerius

24 Cousar? Am I mangling that? Okay. Decline.

25 MS. ISOM: I spoke for us.

1 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: All right. That concludes
2 everyone who signed up to make a comment tonight.
3 Please raise your hand if you have not had the
4 opportunity to speak, but would like to do so now.
5 State your name, please.

6 MS. DINGLE: I'm going to do that.

7 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Thank you.

8 MS. DINGLE: My name is Carolyn, C-a-r-o-l-y-n, and my
9 last name is Dingle, D-i-n-g-l-e.

10 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Okay.

11 MS. DINGLE: I initially was not going to say anything
12 because I know it's no stopping this. And I don't
13 live there, but I grew up there and my mother still
14 lives there and she's 92. And I this made this
15 request in the public meeting, and I'll make it
16 again. If it cannot be stopped, I would at least
17 like it put into a space to where, when the
18 blasting does occur, that the residents can be
19 informed ahead of time that it's -- that it is
20 going to occur. Because I think that with the
21 well-being of the elderly, we could at least
22 prepare them for that. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER SAWYER: Would anyone else like to speak
24 that has not had a chance tonight? Okay. Looks
25 like I've called on everyone who wished to make a

1 comment. Since there are no other attendees who
2 would like to speak, the comment portion of
3 tonight's hearing is closed.

4 On behalf of the South Carolina Department of
5 Environmental Services, I would like to thank
6 everyone for coming here tonight and giving us your
7 comments. Please note, once again, that written
8 comments may be submitted to DES through May 16th
9 of 2025. All written comments received on or
10 before this date will be considered in SCDES's
11 decision making process. If you have questions
12 about submitting written comments after tonight,
13 please see a staff member before you leave.

14 SCDES's Bureau of Land and Waste Management
15 will review and consider all comments received and
16 may request additional information from the
17 applicant if necessary. A decision will then be
18 made to approve or deny the mine permit application
19 and a mine operating permit.

20 Once the final decision is made, SCDES will
21 provide a summary response to all comments
22 received. The permit decision and summary response
23 will be provided to everyone who signed in here
24 tonight, as well as those who submitted written
25 comments during the public comment period. The

1 final permit decision and summary response will
2 also be posted on our web page.

3 You'll receive notification of SCDES's permit
4 decision by standard U.S. mail or e-mail. If you
5 wish to be notified by certified mail instead,
6 please make your request known in writing no later
7 than May 16th, 2025.

8 If you have questions or if you're interested
9 in discussing specific aspects of the proposed mine
10 modification, please reach out to any of our staff
11 members. We'll be happy to begin a conversation
12 with you.

13 On behalf of the South Carolina Department of
14 Environmental Services, thank you again for your
15 attendance and comments this evening. The time is
16 now 7:45 p.m., and the public hearing is officially
17 adjourned.

18 (Whereupon the within hearing was
19 concluded at 7:45 p.m.)

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

23
24
25

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) CERTIFICATE

Be it known that Breanna Sharper 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, if any, 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.

Breanna Sharper

Date: 05/15/2025

Notary public for South Carolina

My commission expires November 29, 2033

*Unless otherwise noted, this notary public administered the oath. Please refer to the transcript for any exceptions.