



SC DEPARTMENT *of*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

# Public Meeting/ Public Hearing

## Monroe Tract Surface Mine

May 22, 2025

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Air Quality

Land & Waste Management

Coastal Resources

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Regional & Laboratory Services

Science • Service • Sustainability





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# Tonight's Public Meeting/Hearing

- Share information on the proposed application for the Monroe Tract Surface Mine and SCDES's role and the environmental permitting processes.
- Answer your questions.
- Convene a formal public hearing to record oral comments.
- No decision will be made tonight.
  - Notice of the decision will be shared with those who signed in tonight.

**More information on this application may be found at [des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine](https://des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine)**

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Mining Presentation
- Questions & Answers
- Intermission
- Public Hearing



# Mining Presentation



# Mining Topics

- Mine Permitting Process
- General Information
- Proposed Permitted Area
- Reclamation
- Addressing Common Concerns
- Next Steps

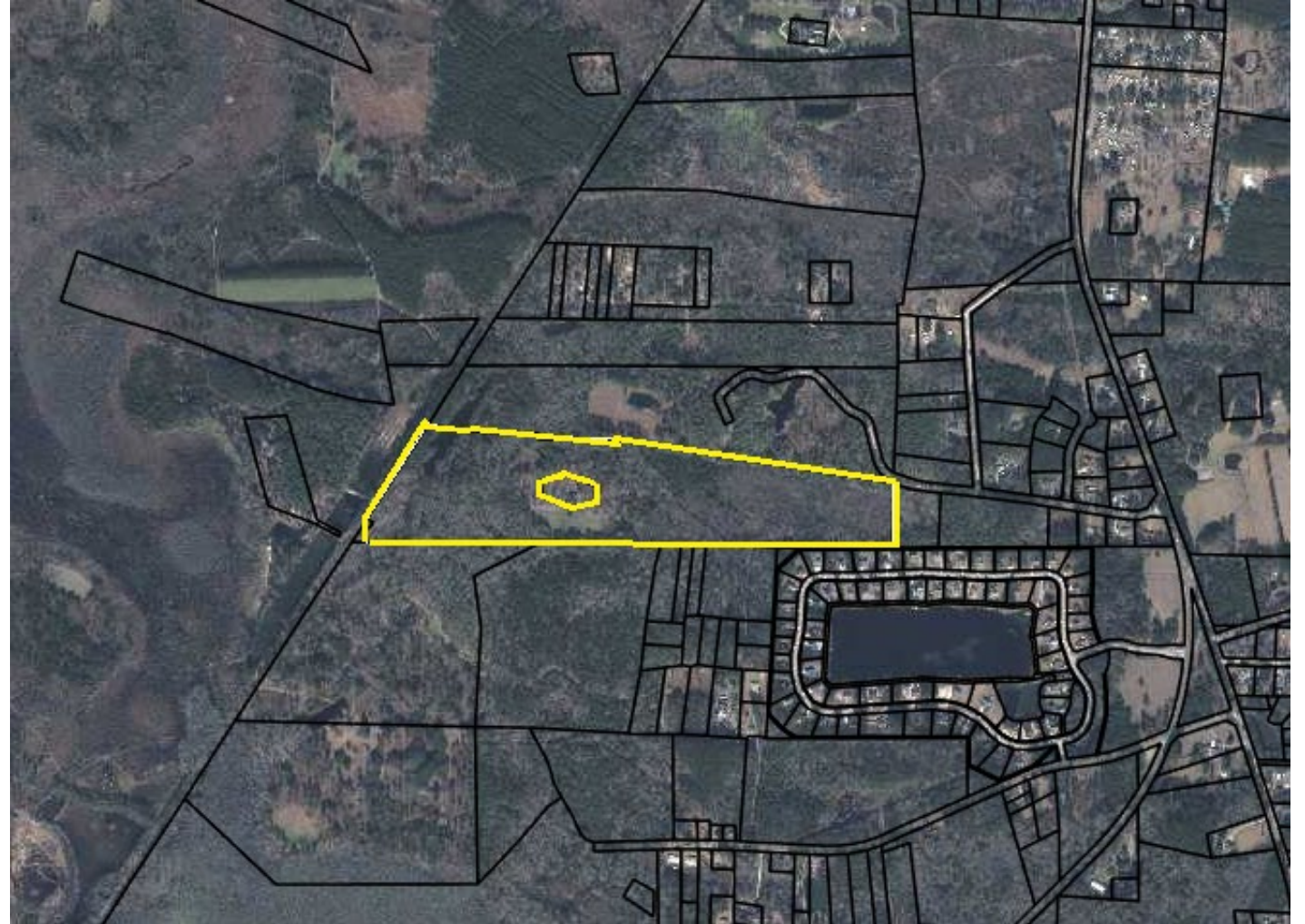


# Timeline



# Proposed Site

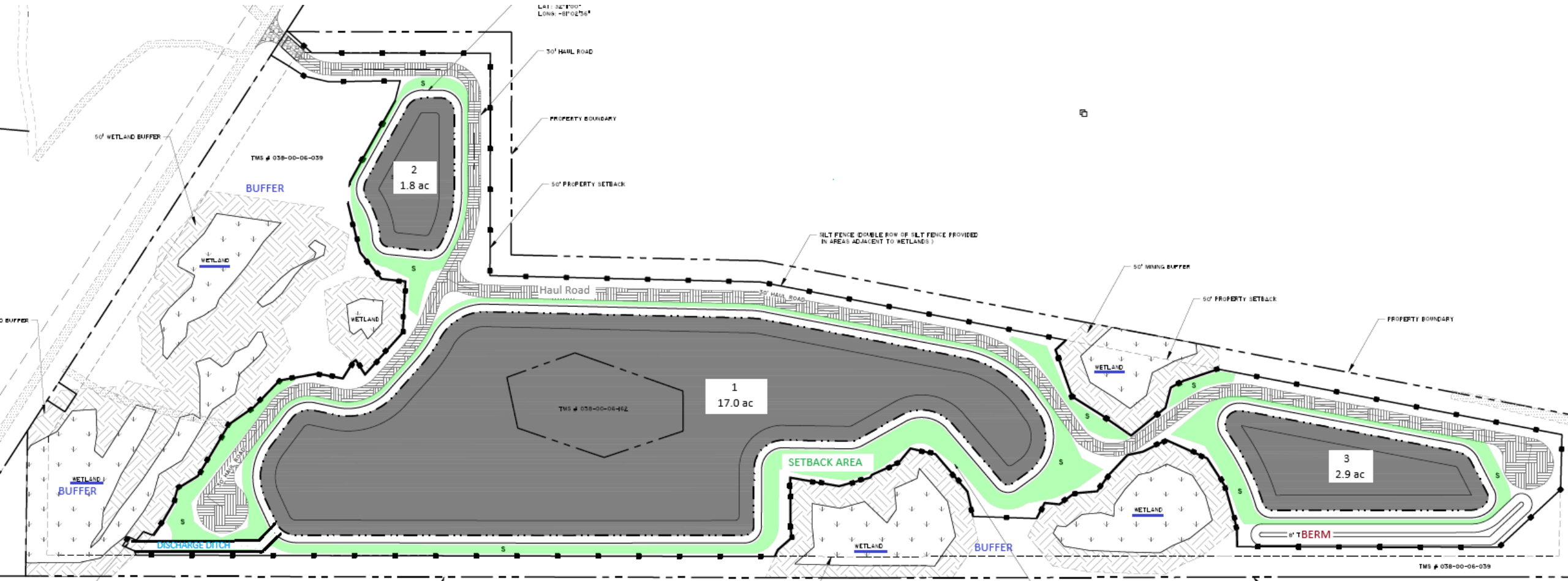
- TMS#: 038-00-06-039/  
038-00-06-162
- Total Area: 62.3
- Current Land Use: Silviculture
- Owner: WJCI Holdings LLC





# Proposed Permit Area

Total Area: 62.3 ac    Affected Area: 35.7 ac    Buffer: 26.6 ac    Reserves: 0.0 ac    Maximum Depth: 25'



# Proposed Mining Process

- Installation of silt fence for sediment control
- Excavate in segments
- Ground clearing of vegetation as prepare each segment
- Remove and stockpile topsoil for future reclamation
- Excavate the segment to a maximum depth of 25'
- Load material onto trucks for transport offsite; no processing of material
- Grade side slopes as work progresses
- Inspect, repair and maintain graded banks

# Proposed Dewatering Process

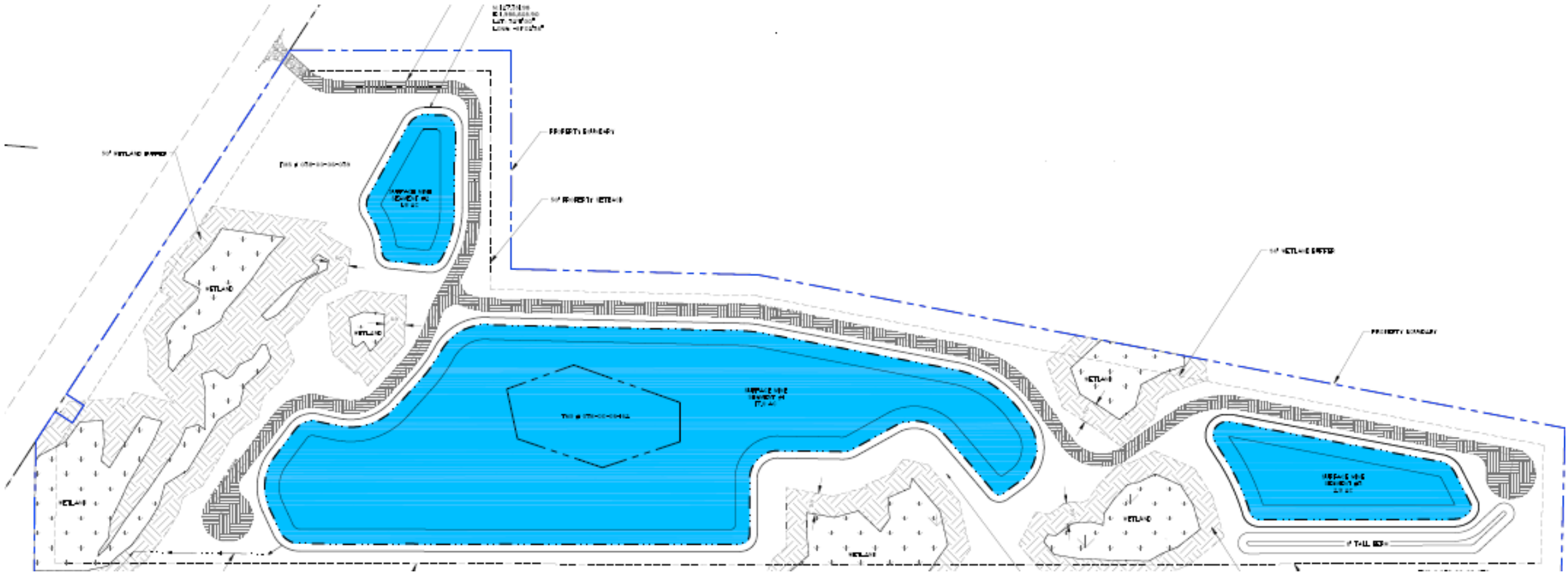
- Excavate a sump in each segment to collect and retain water
- Stormwater will be channeled into open cuts
- Groundwater and stormwater will be retained in the sump and allow time for solids to settle
- Clean water will be pumped from Segment 1 into a constructed outfall ditch with stone filter
  - Water in Segments 2 and 3 will be pumped into Segment 1 for retention and discharge
- Water will be discharged from Segment 1
- All water accumulated must be discharged through the NPDES outlet and meet the standards for TSS and pH
- Clean water may be discharged into wetlands
- Flooding of downstream areas is prohibited
- Dewatering can not affect residential wells

# Reclamation

**Reclamation** is the planned process for restoring the affected land to a useful purpose while protecting natural resources of the surrounding area.

- The proposed Reclamation Plan states the mine will be reclaimed to ponds and grasslands
- Side slopes will be graded as excavations progress
- Reclamation standards require ponds to have a minimum 4' depth over 50% of the surface area; banks must be sloped to a maximum 3H:1V grade to average water height
- Stockpiled topsoil will be spread on banks to promote growth of vegetation;
  - Permanent vegetation must be established
- Operator must inspect the work and conduct any necessary repairs and maintenance
- Financial assurance is required of all mines. The bond is in place to ensure reclamation is completed.

# Reclamation Map



# Other SCDES Requirements

- Bureau of Water
  - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
General Permit for Non-Metal Mineral Mining
  - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- Bureau of Coastal Management
  - Certification the mine is consistent with SC Coastal Zone Management Program

# Other Agency Notifications

- MSHA – Mine Safety and Health Administration
- USFWS – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- SCDNR – S.C. Department of Natural Resources
- SCDAH – S.C. Department of Archives and History
- SCDOT – SC Department of Transportation
- Jasper County Administrator
- City of Hardeeville

# Common Concerns

- Dewatering
- Dust
- Noise
- Public Safety
- Other Concerns



# Dewatering

- Dewatering is necessary to excavate the mine
- Stormwater and groundwater will be collected and discharged through a regulated outfall
- Dewatering cannot create flooding downstream of the mine
- Dewatering cannot impact residential wells

# Dust

- Reduced disturbed area
- Water trucks
- Establishing Vegetative cover

# Noise

- Equipment maintenance
- Buffers/Berms
- Noise standards for worker safety

# Public Safety

- Controlled Access
- Gated Entry/Warning Signs
- Natural & Constructed Barriers

# Other Concerns

- Truck Traffic and Safety

- SC DOT District #6: Tim Henderson (843) 740-1667
- SC Public Service Commission District #1: Carolee Williams (803) 896-5100
- City of Hardeeville Police Department: Sam Woodward (843) 784-2233
- Jasper County Public Works Jim Iwanicki (843)726-7740

- Property Value/ Zoning

- City of Hardeeville Planning Department: Brana Snowden (843) 784-2231

# Next Steps

- The Bureau of Land & Waste Management (BLWM) will review all comments received and conclude the technical review of the application package.
- BLWM will make a final permitting decision and provide notification and a written response to all comments to everyone on the mailing list.
- Final decision date begins 30-day appeal period.



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# Get in touch

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# SCDES Staff



## Bureau of Land & Waste Management Mining & Reclamation Section

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## Bureau of Regional & Laboratory Services Beaufort Office

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## Bureau of Coastal Management Coastal Zone Consistency Section

Christopher Stout Bureau Chief

Benjamin Thepaut Program Manager

Reid Hotelling Project Manager



# Public Hearing

- No questions will be answered during the public hearing.
- Comments should be less than 3 minutes for individuals or 5 minutes for officials/groups.
- Be respectful to speakers.
- Do not interrupt others or ask others to respond to your comments.

**More information on this project may be found at [des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine](https://des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine)**

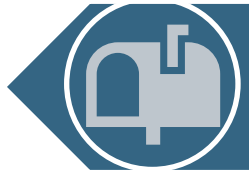
# How to Provide Comments:



Recorded comments at tonight's public hearing



E-mail: [Wendy.Hamilton@des.sc.gov](mailto:Wendy.Hamilton@des.sc.gov)



By US Mail: 2600 Bull St. Columbia, S.C. 29201



The ePermitting Portal:  
[des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine](https://des.sc.gov/MonroeTractSurfaceMine)

**Public Comments accepted through June 6, 2025**