

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(SCDES)
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

In Re: Heidelberg) Transcript
Materials Southeast)
Agg, LLC) of
Spartanburg County,)
South Carolina) Public Hearing
(DES Application I-000431))
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Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Gibbs Cancer Center & Research
Institute - Pelham
2759 South Highway 14
Greer, South Carolina 29650

Reported by
Sallye D. Nelson
Verbatim Court Reporter

APPEARANCES

Official Speakers: Catherine Sawyer; Jeremy Eddy

Members of the Public: Gail Wood; Judy Pope; Sharon Bolden; Ian G. Conits; Patti Dallas; Linda Perry; Becky McLaughlin; Joseph Horne; Caron Cooper; Kayla Howard; Kevin T. Moore.

EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked during this proceeding.)

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PROCEEDINGS

MS. SAWYER: This public hearing is being held by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, also known as SCDES, to accept comments and supporting information on the application submitted by Heidelberg Materials Southeast Agg, LLC to modify their permit to mine granite at a site located on East Howell Road in Spartanburg County, approximately six miles southeast of Greer, South Carolina. As a formal proceeding the purpose of this hearing is to accept oral comments from the audience and report them for the official record. Therefore, SCDES staff will not be responding to questions or comments during the hearing. A written transcript will be prepared by the certified court reporter. The transcript will serve as the official record of this public hearing and will be posted on the department s webpage when available. The webpage address is des.sc.gov/Pelham Stone Mine, and we update it with information as it becomes available.

Again, my name is Catherine Sawyer, and I will serve as your hearing officer tonight.

1 Thank you for taking the time to be here for
2 this important step in SCDES s permitting
3 process.

4 Before I go into how we will proceed,
5 there are a couple of items that I would like
6 to address. First, I would ask that you
7 please silence your cell phones or electronic
8 devices so that others are not disturbed
9 during this hearing. Next, if you have not
10 already done so, I encourage each of you to
11 sign the attendance sheet located at the sign-
12 in table so that we have a complete record of
13 everyone here tonight. We ve asked for your
14 mailing or email address on the sign-in sheet,
15 so that we know how to notify you of future
16 information regarding the proposed quarry
17 modification.

18 The permitting process as DDES begins
19 when an application is received for one or
20 more environmental permits during this process
21 an applicant must show that it s proposed
22 operation can comply with all applicable state
23 and federal regulations. These regulations
24 have been written to ensure that human health
25 and the environment are protected. In

1 addition to reviewing the application the
2 department s role is to write and if issued
3 enforce permits that meet the requirements of
4 the regulation. You also have the role in
5 SCDES s permitting process, that s what brings
6 us here tonight to receive your comments
7 formally for the record. Although, a final
8 permit decision cannot be made based on a vote
9 or how many people say the same thing, your
10 comments are important and may influence the
11 terms and conditions written in the permit if
12 one is issued. Comments and concerns given
13 here tonight, as well as those submitting in
14 writing at the end of the public comment
15 period are welcome and encouraged.

16 A presentation on the proposed mine and
17 SCDES s permitting processes was provided by
18 Jeremy Eddy during the public meeting held at
19 6:00 p.m. This presentation will be made
20 available on our webpage before the end of the
21 public comment period.

22 We will now move onto the order in which
23 we will proceed with this hearing. A brief
24 statement about the proposed mine will be read
25 for the record by Jeremy Eddy. I will then

1 begin the public comment portion of the
2 evening by calling on those of you indicated
3 on the sign-in sheet that you would like to
4 make a comment. If you have decided that you
5 no longer wish to comment, you may declines
6 when called upon. Once everyone has had a
7 chance to speak, I will ask if anyone else in
8 attendance would like to make a comment.
9 After all of the comments have been heard I
10 will make closing remarks, and this public
11 hearing will be adjourned.

12 For everyone to have a fair and equal
13 opportunity to participate tonight and to
14 ensure that we receive in a timely and
15 effective manner the following four guidelines
16 have been established. First, no questions
17 will be answered during the public hearing.
18 Second, your comments should not go over three
19 minutes per individual, or five minutes for
20 elected officials and those speaking on behalf
21 of an organized group. I will remind you if
22 you do not conclude your comments in that
23 time. If you re unable to present all of your
24 comments within the allotted time, please
25 remember that you may submit them to SCDES in

1 writing by the end of the comment period.
2 Please, be respectful towards anyone speaking
3 here tonight. You each have a unique and a
4 valued perspective. No one comment is
5 considered more important than another. And
6 fourth, please do not interrupt other
7 participants to respond to your comments.
8 Should any comments or affections begin to
9 move away from the intent of this hearing, I
10 may ask the speaker to limit their statements
11 and be seated.

12 I will now call on Jeremy Eddy to read a
13 brief statement about the mine operating
14 permit application. Jeremy.

15 MR. EDDY: So on February 29th, 2024,
16 Heidelberg Materials Southeast Agg, LLC
17 submitted an application to modify their mine
18 operating permit for the Pelham Stone Mine in
19 Spartanburg County. The modification request
20 to add approximately ten acres to the permit
21 boundary and construct an overburden storage
22 area. The reclamation plan will require the
23 operator to reclaim these areas as grasslands
24 and a pond.

25 MS. SAWYER: Thank you, Jeremy. As we

1 transition to the comment portion of the
2 public hearing, I d like to reiterate that
3 SCDES staff are here to listen to your
4 comments. Answers and responses to questions
5 will not be provided tonight. All comments
6 made during this hearing are being recorded.
7 If you are unable to complete your comments
8 within the three-minute allotted time, you may
9 submit them in writing through the end of the
10 public comment period on November 1st, 2024.

11 We will now hear from those of you who
12 indicated on the sign-in sheet that you would
13 like to make a comment. You will be called
14 upon in an random order. Please, come down
15 front. I will hand you the microphone.
16 Clearly state and spell your name for the
17 court reporter before beginning to speak so we
18 can get your name in the record.

19 And I will now call upon Gail Wood.
20 Would Gail still like to speak?
21 MS. WOOD: My name is Gail Wood. G-a-i-l. W-
22 o-o-d. I ve lived in my home for 43 years.
23 When I moved there we had none of these
24 problems, but this blasting has gotten worse
25 over the years. It s tearing my home apart.

1 It has caused foundation damage to my home and
2 cracks in the walls, the molding is coming off
3 the walls and the ceiling, large cracks in the
4 driveway and patio. Items fall off the wall
5 when the blasting s done. There s potential
6 for my well caving in. My house is not on
7 city water and cannot be hooked up because the
8 pressure will destroy the current plumbing.
9 The roads in the area currently can t handle
10 the traffic, and additional trucks on the road
11 will continue to destroy the roads. Trucks
12 currently going into the site is being
13 constantly and are dangerous to our people
14 living in the area, so much that I have had to
15 jump in the ditch when trying to get to my
16 mailbox to avoid being hit. The overload
17 noise level will increase with additional
18 traffic and blasting processing of granite.
19 We shouldn t be forced to live in this. Our
20 homes were nice, and they weren t being torn
21 apart until the last few years. I don t know
22 what you people are trying to do. Are you
23 making that much money that you don t care
24 that you re destroying people s homes? You
25 don t, and that s sad. And I hope God will

1 have mercy on each and every one of you
2 because you re going to need it. Thank you.

3 MS. SAWYER: All right. Next, I would like
4 to ask Judy Pope if she would still like to
5 speak.

6 MS. POPE: Judy Pope. J-u-d-y. P-o-p-e.
7 Yes, I had to talk with them earlier. I would
8 like to talk about the blasting. To start
9 with like this lady said, in the last few
10 years the blasting has increased. When Hanson
11 was there, we didn t have near as much
12 blasting. Maybe they weren t as busy, I don t
13 know, but I thought we had a better
14 relationship with them. I have just had
15 windows put in by Window World. When they
16 blast it causes my windows to fall down unless
17 I keep them in the locked position. I ve got
18 two wells that I know have went dry, my
19 mother s across the road, which was many years
20 ago, and where Mr. Swank s house it at before
21 he bought it went dry because of blasting. I
22 also have pictures that fall off the wall.
23 And the blasts are one right after the other,
24 so it s a continuous shake. My son has got
25 the blocks underneath his house is already

1 cracked and is seven years old. He s got
2 cracking on the sheetrock. And it s a seven-
3 year-old house, shouldn t look like that.
4 There is so much about that this happens to
5 us. Our water, the way our water tastes, is
6 not right. The stream water down on Pearson
7 Road, after a blast, it comes down in a gray
8 murky silt on top of it, and I m sure that s
9 from the granite sift coming off the blast --
10 well, I can t say I m sure, 'cause I don t
11 really know. I guess that s all I got to say
12 for right now.

13 MS. SAWYER: All right. Next calling on
14 Sharon and John Bolden.

15 MS. BOLDEN: My name is Sharon Bolden. S-h-a-
16 r-o-n. B-o-l-d-e-n. I too have built a house
17 in the last seven years. They didn t used to
18 blast as much. I have the chart that says
19 they only blasted 25 times in the last year.
20 I find that hard to believe, but I guess
21 charts don t lie. My house has got cracks.
22 The ceiling s coming loose at the top on the
23 second floor. And you know, we got the cracks
24 from the doors going up to the ceiling on
25 this, on the first floor. It s really bad,

1 you know, it wasn't as bad as it was when we
2 first built the house, and we have seen it s
3 got worse. They say you can't feel it and the
4 vibrations are within the limit. They may be
5 within the limit, but the vibrations are
6 tearing people's houses apart. I have
7 pictures that I'm going to submit. You know,
8 they promise to submit, y'all need to get your
9 facts together and submit. Because I do have
10 pictures that shows where my house, I -- I do
11 have doors that would open before, and they
12 won't. I have a, you know, we've had to
13 realign the doors, you know, get people to fix
14 the doors, you know, on the upstairs and
15 downstairs. So it basically doesn't matter
16 what level your house is, it affects it. They
17 say they're going to, you know, give a half-
18 mile radius, you know, to those that's houses
19 is already there, but what about the ones that
20 new people coming in? They're not telling
21 them they're going to blast, and it could
22 damage your house. You know, so if you build
23 here, you got the potential, you got a nice
24 new house to begin with but within five to
25 seven years you don't because they're going to

1 be blasting. You know, people s wells have
2 went dry. A lot of the older houses that have
3 wells, they have old pipes. You know, it s
4 not just the case we ll -- we ll put you on
5 city water. That would be nice, okay, you go
6 put them on city water but will their plumbing
7 take it, as was said, their plumbing won t.
8 The new houses will, and that s not an issue,
9 but the older houses will not. You know,
10 you've got people that s lived there their
11 whole life, and they re seeing the difference.
12 You know, they say there s no difference;
13 there is. From five years ago -- from 1978,
14 when they said before it s went on production
15 there might have been 20 houses around. It s
16 residential now, there s 200 houses around.
17 You know, they re not just a few. And there s
18 going to be more, there s all kind of
19 building. You know, we re -- we want to -- to
20 bring in more people and to have, you know,
21 opportunities, but people sees what it is.
22 The roads are bad. No, are they over the
23 trucks when they leave, can they tell them not
24 to go down the small road? No, they can t.
25 But it s -- it s affecting all of the people

1 that live there that have to travel that road
2 back and forth to work, you know, it s
3 affecting them. They get run off the road,
4 you know, the trucks are big. You go to some
5 of the small roads, and it can t be, you know,
6 the traffic is enormous. And, yes, it s only
7 during business hours, they only blast during
8 business hours. That s why some of the
9 homeowners that you talk to, they don t even
10 know they re blasting. So can you say the
11 blasting is bad? I don t know, I m not there.
12 Later they see the cracks in their foundation
13 or in their house, they was told it was
14 structurally inaccurate to begin with. So
15 should we go back to -- to whoever built our
16 house and say it s your responsibility? Then
17 they re going to say, no, it s the land, it s
18 -- it s the -- the blasting s responsibility,
19 they re doing it. So it s a catch 22, who --
20 who do you go to see or talk to to get
21 something took care of because it is someone?
22 MS. SAWYER: The next person I m going to call
23 on is Andrew Coyle. Is Andrew still here? I
24 thought that was Andrew standing up, but I
25 guess not. So I will call on Kurt Dallas.

1 Would Kurt Dallas like to speak?

2 MR. DALLAS: No. I m good. Thank you.

3 MS. SAWYER: No. Okay. Brent Miller.

4 MR. MILLER: I ll wait so everybody can get
5 their comments in --

6 MS. SAWYER: Okay.

7 MR. MILLER: -- before I --

8 MS. SAWYER: I ll come back to you at the end.
9 Ian Conits.

10 MR. CONITS: I think you got it.

11 MS. SAWYER: Is that you?

12 MR. CONITS: Yeah.

13 MS. SAWYER: All right.

14 MR. CONITS: My name is Ian Conits. I m an
15 attorney with Gallivan White & Boyd in
16 Greenville, which is very close to here. So
17 we submitted an objection in July to this.
18 I m here on behalf of Le Jardin. The Le
19 Jardin Community, many of the members are here
20 and I m thankful that we re given an
21 opportunity to be heard. Just is here is, you
22 know, we in our written objection, which I m
23 not sure if many of you have seen it, there s
24 a lot of issues we raised, a lot of those
25 issues, while we re appreciative of the

1 presentation, where they were not answered,
2 that we had a lot of questions that just
3 haven't been answered. And my understanding
4 is the mining company hasn't even been
5 provided a -- hasn't gotten a copy of our
6 objection, which we will deal with after this.
7 But this new proposal of what to do with this
8 parcel, it's a significant deviation from what
9 it's currently being used for. We understand
10 that's just for its simple structure is just
11 to store emulsion soil. And now what we're
12 talking about what I think, and I -- I don't
13 know this because I don't really know what
14 when it says, you know, stockpile, the
15 picture, I don't really know what that means
16 when it says future plant on the picture, I --
17 I don't know what that means. I, you know,
18 it's we don't know the size of these
19 structures. We don't know the volume of
20 materials that are going to be stored. You
21 know, these are important questions that are,
22 as we sit here today, still unanswered. So
23 it, you know, it we're this they're seeking to
24 use this parcel in a significantly different
25 manner than it's current state. And so we're

1 what we re, of course, concerned about things
2 that things like noise pollution, decrease in
3 air quality due to the dust particles entering
4 the air. We re concerned about the impact on
5 groundwater, stormwater management, chemicals
6 in the sediments, adages from the expanding
7 mining operations, what that may be I don t --
8 I m still unclear on the scope of the
9 expansion of the mining operations -- the
10 potential for increased blasting and noise and
11 the vibrations goes with that. You know, it -
12 - it and I know I m not going to go into this
13 because the group s covering it pretty well,
14 but the traffic concerns, increased traffic,
15 changes to the mine s traffic pattern, damage
16 to the surrounding streets, you know, dangers
17 to the traveling public, you know, all of
18 those things. I mean just what s on East
19 Howell, went on a week ago, and a car was
20 coming in my direction and, you know, I had to
21 just stop. So, you know, these are real
22 concerns, and I understand that -- that
23 apparently doesn t factor into the decision
24 here, I think it should, but you know, that s
25 -- that s the department s position. You

1 know, sediment basin five is listed, you know,
2 it that s new and there s we haven t really
3 received information concerning the
4 characterization and composition of sediments
5 that go with that. We need that information.
6 So that s -- and I m sorry -- I ll wrap it up
7 here. You know, and that there s the county
8 ordinance requires setbacks, and I m not sure
9 if this what s being proposed is in line with
10 all of those requirements. I didn t see
11 anything in the presentation tonight that gave
12 me comfort that that is being satisfied. And
13 then, you know, the plans show berms
14 constructed on the new parcels. There s a
15 entrance driveway through the berm, so I -- I
16 don t know how that can work with the, you
17 know, regulations that are needed to be
18 complied with. So, you know, we re -- we re
19 at least there s a conversation here, but we
20 are, my -- my client Le Jardin is committed to
21 do what it can to protect it s interests and
22 is we re and we re prepared to seek any relief
23 that we are entitled to under law and, you
24 know, we hope that s not necessary but there s
25 several issues here that we need answers on.

1 So thank you.

2 MS. SAWYER: All right. Next, I would like to
3 call on Patti Dallas.

4 MS. DALLAS: Thank you. Patti Dallas. P-a-t-
5 t-i. Dallas. D-a-l-l-a-s. So under the
6 video I saw the best management practices
7 written out. I think that should include
8 caring for the overburdened roads that are
9 created by the trucks going to and coming from
10 this mine, even though you re not responsible
11 for those trucks and are not necessary in your
12 mine was not expanding and was in the
13 vicinity. I am frequently run on off the road
14 on East Howell by these large trucks, damaging
15 my car s alignment in the process. On many
16 occasions I choose to come to a complete stop
17 and hope these trucks don t hit me as they fly
18 past. A serious is in imminent and these
19 trucks are allowed to drive on a road that s
20 too small to support them and another vehicle.
21 And I would hope that you can make right as
22 your exit, as my husband spoke with you, to
23 try to make those trucks turn right. Please,
24 for the safety of everyone who travels East
25 Howell, stop allowing your trucks and those

1 who transport your products to use this road.

2 I m concerned for my safety and the safety of
3 those in my community. Thank you.

4 MS. SAWYER: Linda D. Perry.

5 MS. PERRY: That s me.

6 MS. SAWYER: That s you.

7 MS. PERRY: I have a cane, can I --

8 MS. SAWYER: That s alright.

9 MS. PERRY: -- sit down and do it?

10 MS. SAWYER: You certainly may.

11 MS. PERRY: I ve got two fused discs.

12 MS. SAWYER: Here you go.

13 MS. PERRY: Okay. My name is Linda Perry, and
14 I live about a half-a-mile away from the rock
15 quarry. Well, what I want to say, and I want
16 to put down on record, is that we never re-got
17 -- received anything through the mail, I don t
18 know very people that did. I only know of the
19 two people that raised their hands up in here.
20 I mean so that s what concerns me. And the
21 air quality, yeah, that concerns me too,
22 because I ve got great-grandchildren, I ve got
23 a great-great-grandchild, that comes down
24 there and visits me and I take care of.
25 That s my family, my home, I was raised there.

1 We ve went through three rock quarries. And -
2 - and so this is the third one, and this is I
3 absolutely, I m sorry, but it s the worst, it
4 is. We ve never had a problem like this, and
5 it make -- it worries me because they re so, I
6 don t know, they re not oriented to, I don t
7 know, know the community like the other people
8 did. Or we used to when -- when we were
9 teenagers, we would go walk through the rock
10 quarry. I mean, you know, that s been a long
11 time ago, I know. But and I know I m taking,
12 I m sorry I -- I ramble on because I forget my
13 to where I m talk, what I m talking about.
14 But I am worried about the air quality. And
15 all this gentleman right here said, the
16 attorney, he hit on everything, so I really
17 don t need to say anything about that. But I
18 do want to put down we never received any --
19 any mail, any letters concerning the rock
20 quarry that they were going to do it. There
21 as no signs put up. And -- and Greer Citizen,
22 they said to put it in there but, hey, Greer
23 Citizens paper s been closed down. So,
24 listen, hey, give us a break. I mean we re
25 country people but don t treat us like we re

1 stupid, okay? Now, that s all I got to say.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. SAWYER: Next I ll invite -- to call on
4 Tony and Patricia Lister. You going to pass,
5 okay. Becky McLaughlin.

6 MS. MCLAUGHLIN: A few years ago Heartwood
7 Place was situated between -- oh, you want to
8 know who I am. Becky. B-e-c-k-y.
9 McLaughlin. M-c-L-a-u-g-h-l-i-n. Thank you.
10 Heartwood Place was situated between I m
11 thinking only farm on the south side, on the
12 west side a river, and some woods on the east
13 side, beautiful hay field and pasture on the
14 west. And in the past couple of years the
15 farm was sold to your lovely community. And
16 what did Greer City do for us? They didn t
17 stop the waterfalls from falling into our
18 backyard. Government jurisdiction prevented
19 them from doing that. The hay field was
20 replaced by Saddlebrook Farms and more than
21 120 homes and townhouses. The pastures are
22 now the site of hundreds, several hundreds of
23 rentals in Vines Creek each and mulch facility
24 was sold so that a quarry could expand,
25 bringing more and louder blasts as they are

1 closer to us. And this is my downsize
2 retirement. Married 50 years, you buy that
3 little house you re going to stay in for the
4 rest of your life, and that was it. We are
5 Heartwood Place, a subdivision in America. We
6 are senior citizens and newborns, retired and
7 working folks, high schoolers and
8 preschoolers, PhDs and blue collars,
9 conservatives and liberals, black, white,
10 Hispanic, and Asians. We are the diversity of
11 America. We live in single family homes.
12 They range from 1,400 to 3,000 square feet.
13 We paid 120 to \$350,000 for those homes over
14 30 years. We share a neighborhood swimming
15 pool and dog walk, but we re neighbors. And
16 what do you bring to us, Heidelberg Materials,
17 blasts that shakes our souls and make cracks
18 in our walls and driveways, dump trucks on
19 country roads that carry 40 tons of
20 overburdened material, I m wondering if that
21 would be overburdened citizens. Most of all,
22 I m worried about the threat to the drivers,
23 those of us that are not quite 80 and those of
24 us that are barely 16, that might just pull
25 out in the path of those 40 tons. I m

1 guessing at 40 tons, because I asked that
2 question and didn't get an answer. And what
3 about the voice that we were given by the
4 Columbia bureaucrats? Well, we didn't get a
5 letter. And I'll tell you if that slot were
6 back, I -- I'm probably maybe 300 feet from
7 the new entrance on Brockman and McClimon, and
8 I didn't get an answer. And those neighbors
9 closer than I am did not get a letter. So I
10 don't know if this is a done deal. Though I
11 do know that Greer Citizen Journal is a
12 defunct newspaper, and you can't even find it
13 online. So we didn't get a notice in the
14 paper either. And interestingly enough, on
15 the map there's one little square that is not
16 part of this property, and it's a cemetery,
17 and it's a family cemetery, and the
18 gravestones are knocked over, I have pictures
19 of them, but the Mayfields are buried there.
20 So oddly enough, I was going to ask if there
21 was permitting or regulations for cemetery,
22 which is just the corner of Liberty and
23 Brockman, or East Howell and Brockman McClimon
24 on that northeast corner. For -- for a
25 company, whose employees average \$118,000, the

1 CEO makes eight million plus benefits, whose
2 company s revenue is 23 billion dollars, it s
3 no wonder that they re mentioning is global
4 growth and it affecting our little town. So
5 what do you offer us, repairs for our houses,
6 for our roads? I prefer a speed bump on
7 Brockman McClimon, and that probably won t
8 happen. But while you re meeting your global
9 growth targets, what do you do with our
10 community? Thank you.

11 MS. SAWYER: Joseph Horne, would you still
12 like to speak?

13 MR. HORNE: Yes. All right. I don t need
14 that. So my name is Joseph Horne. J-o-s-e-p-
15 h. H-o-r-n-e. I m a retired US Navy veteran.
16 I created these, I want to just pass them
17 around so that y all can see some of the
18 damage that has been done to our neighborhood.
19 Just feel to just -- I -- I only printed ten
20 of them off.

21 MS. SAWYER: And I m going to ask you too, the
22 court reporter is --

23 MR. HORNE: Oh, okay.

24 MS. SAWYER: -- just you have a because --

25 MR. HORNE: And I would like to submit this

1 one for the record. So, yeah, I spent 20
2 years as a combat veteran, as an intelligence
3 specialist in the US Navy. I was -- it was my
4 pleasure. Thank you. You know I went from
5 deployment to deployment to some of the real
6 garden spots of the world like Afghanistan,
7 Guant namo Bay, Cuba, and the Persian Gulf.
8 But what really concerns me is now this is my
9 -- this is my retirement home, and I can
10 barely, you know, my -- my measly little my
11 retirement check barely covers the mortgage.
12 So I want to make sure that my house doesn't
13 get destroyed by all of the blasting. I wrote
14 down a few comments here, so just bear with me
15 for a second. Number one, in the
16 presentation, Regulation 89-50, mentioning
17 some of the pre-blast surveys, I would like a
18 written response explaining why we haven't
19 received any pre-blast surveys before now, and
20 I m sure most of you would like to know that
21 too. Also, I want to know who d like to
22 receive a copy of this presentation via email,
23 that would be great so that we can, you know,
24 really go through with a fine-toothed comb.
25 Also, based on what the regulator Jeremy Eddy

1 said, it -- it kind of seems to me like the
2 pre-blast surveys, if they ve even been done
3 before, maybe they ve kind of fallen by the
4 wayside. And -- and then also during the
5 presentation you guys mentioned noise
6 attenuation. Well, noise attenuation, that s
7 really nice but that doesn t help the damage
8 to our foundations, it doesn t prevent the
9 wells from going dry, it doesn t prevent
10 drinking water contamination, it doesn t
11 prevent cracked walls, bowed door frames. I m
12 concerned for my family s health. We drink
13 the water, you know. And if my kids end up
14 getting sick, trust me, I ll move heaven and
15 earth to stop that. So also, I know the new
16 entrance on Brockman McClimon, that has
17 definitely been severely overburdened the
18 traffic pattern, we ve already got a problem
19 with it. You can see from the picture that s
20 just one of the accidents. There was three
21 accidents over the last few years. My
22 profession right now that I m retired from the
23 Navy, I m a private investigator. So, you
24 know, I m not an attorney, but I m pretty sure
25 that since Heidelberg Aggregates is the one

1 that s contracting these trucks to come in and
2 out of the quarry, it s still your
3 responsibility because you re the ones that
4 are contracting with those trucks to deliver
5 your goods, so I just wanted to make that
6 clear. And that s all I ve got.

7 MS. SAWYER: Jen Sinderozny [sic], would you
8 still like to speak? No. Caron Cooper.

9 MS. COOPER: My name is Caron. C-a-r-o-n.
10 Cooper. And I live approximately eight-tenths
11 of a mile from the quarry. And I did some
12 research when I heard they were expanding the
13 quarry, and one of the things that I saw that
14 stood out to me was that most quarries are in
15 rural areas, not in the city limits. Most of
16 us are in the city limits now, I don t know if
17 the quarry is or not. No? Well, still there
18 it -- it s like a city out here, we have a
19 lot of people. And most everyone has talked
20 about everything, the water contamination, the
21 -- the runoffs. I heard them say the
22 chemicals they used. I have a well. My -- my
23 mom who s a mile away has a well. I know
24 other people in the area have wells and are
25 concerned about any chemicals or runoff that

1 can come from the quarry. Another concern I
2 have is the air pollution, it can cause silly
3 -- silicosis, which is from the presence of
4 crystal-like silica in the dust, and that does
5 come from the quarry that we have. It can
6 travel up to a half mile to two miles, and
7 even the smaller particles can go up to 24
8 miles. And with that with some of the studies
9 they re finding that compared to the control
10 group, the exposed group has significant,
11 significantly higher incidences of allergies,
12 eye soreness, chest tightness, eye dryness,
13 chronic cough, lung function issues were much
14 worse in the exposed group to the quarry. So
15 that s -- that s I was just diagnosed with
16 asthma, and that s one of the things that can
17 happen, and I ve been here since 1972. I m
18 not going to say the quarry did it, but it s,
19 you know, I wonder if that could have anything
20 to do with it. And my other questions would
21 be to the city of Greer, what -- what would we
22 get out of it? What is there to help this
23 community? Is there going to be a fund set up
24 for those of us who need new wells or far as
25 the relevel our houses because it s blasting?

1 My mom lives a mile away. When we moved there
2 in '72, there was no runoff next to the house.
3 You could see the rock, you can't see it
4 anymore because there's growth, but you can
5 see in the road where the rocks pushed up and
6 the spring has tried to come up from
7 underground. So it is having some damage to
8 the area. Our home that had a full basement,
9 we ended up having the seal broken with some
10 of the blasting. And I would suggest that
11 those who do have basements that they would
12 maybe want to get flood insurance. And that's
13 all I have to say.

14 MS. SAWYER: Brent Miller, would you like to
15 speak? No. Anyone else who tonight like to
16 speak? All right. Please, come down.

17 KAYLA HOWARD: So my name is Kayla Howard. K-
18 a-y-l-a. H-o-w-a-r-d. My husband's family
19 has lived on Pearson Road for over 40 years.
20 My husband had grown up with the rock quarry in
21 the back yard. Our property touches their
22 mess that they have of piled up dirt that
23 they're saying is their tailings, which I have
24 had the pleasure of watching small children
25 from Vines Court under the age of about five

1 climbing on top of a pile of dirt that s over
2 100 feet high, so... I have two autistic
3 children. I m the mom of four. I m a nursing
4 home administrator. So I spend my day taking
5 care of people who can t take care of their
6 self. And from the slides that we saw today,
7 I don t think they really have the intentions
8 of doing what s right by the community. We ve
9 watched our brand-new home that s only four
10 years old have foundation issues now. That
11 was supposed to been our retirement home and
12 though I don t think it will be. But we ve
13 watched Heidelberg buy up our neighbor s
14 property that we tried to buy at market value,
15 and I m sure they gave him a pretty penny so
16 they could put their workers in our backyard
17 so when they make a mess it s justified. I
18 urge all of you, and I m looking at some of my
19 neighbors that have property that adjoin,
20 don t sell them anything. Let s get together
21 and do what s right.

22 MS. SAWYER: Sir, you would like to come in
23 and speak?

24 MR. MOORE: Yeah. I ve done that a lot. Hey,
25 everybody. My name is Kevin Moore. My wife

1 and I live in Le Jardin. I wanted to get
2 right to the point. The reason we re here is
3 because the mining company has asked the South
4 Carolina Department of Environmental Services
5 to grant their petition to modify. And this
6 is what they said, the purpose of this
7 modification is to add land to the permitted
8 area for overburden storage and expansion of
9 mining activities on expansion of mining
10 activities. What does that mean? Maybe Brent
11 could tell us, I don t know. But this is what
12 I know, I have been practicing law for 40
13 years. The South Carolina Department of
14 Environmental Services does not have
15 sufficient information to grant or deny any
16 permit. And if you grant their permit, I m
17 going to do everything I can to appeal it.
18 See, here s the bottom line again, the mission
19 of the South Carolina Department of
20 Environmental Services -- now, listen to this
21 -- is to improve the quality of life for all
22 South Carolinians by promoting and protecting
23 the health of the public and the environment -
24 - they need to protect that, and this is on
25 their website -- protect the air, protect the

1 water, and protect the land. Well, what did
2 they do? They had this meeting, and what did
3 all of you talk about? Every one of you came
4 here and talked about the land, the water, and
5 the air. Has there been a study done on the
6 dust, like you talked about? Did you hear
7 that? No. Did you hear anybody talk about
8 the land? The only thing that we heard is
9 that our complaints about so many cars. There
10 have been so many more people that have moved
11 into this area, the traffic has tripled. And
12 if any of you recall, about a year ago a
13 development company wanted to put a huge
14 warehouse at the corner of Abner Creek, you
15 got it? Abner Creek and Brockman McClimon.
16 They had already bought the land and graded it
17 and put a fence around it. Well, I went to
18 that Greer Council meeting, and they had
19 already permitted that man to build. After
20 that meeting, he didn't build. Well, we -- we
21 appreciate -- well -- well, we appreciate
22 y all giving us this opportunity to talk to
23 you. But during this hearing they talked
24 about chemicals. They didn't tell us what
25 kind of chemicals. They talked about traffic.

1 Have they done a traffic study? No. So there
2 is not sufficient information for the South
3 Carolina Department of Environmental Services
4 to issue any permit, and I will strongly
5 suggest that before you do, you have another
6 hearing, you sit down with the company, who we
7 want to be a good neighbor with, sit down with
8 them and get enough information. Thanks.

9 MS. SAWYER: Would anyone else like to make a
10 comment for the record tonight? All right.
11 On behalf of the South Carolina Department of
12 Environmental Services, I would like to thank
13 everyone for coming here tonight and giving us
14 your comments.

15 Please, note once again that written
16 comments may be submitted to SCDES through
17 November 1st, 2024. All written comments
18 received on or before this date will be
19 considered in SCDES s decision process. If
20 you have questions about submitting written
21 comments after tonight, please see a staff
22 member before you leave. It s SCDES s Bureau
23 of Land and Waste Management for review and
24 consider all comments received and may request
25 additional information from the applicant if

1 necessary. A decision will then be made to
2 approve or deny the mine permit application
3 and the mining operating permit. Once a final
4 decision is made, SCDES will provide a summary
5 response to all the comments received. The
6 permit decision and summary response will be
7 provided to everyone who signed in here
8 tonight, as well as those who submitted
9 written comments during the public comment
10 period. The final permit discussion and
11 summary response will also be posted on our
12 webpage. You will receive notification of
13 SCDES s permit decision by standard US Mail or
14 by email. If you wish to be notified of
15 SCDES s final decision by certified mail
16 instead, please make your request known in
17 writing no later than November 1st, 2024. If
18 you have questions or if you re interested in
19 discussing specific aspects of the proposed
20 mine modification, please reach out to any of
21 our staff members. We will be happy to begin
22 a conversation with you.

23 On behalf of the South Carolina
24 Department of Environmental Services, thank
25 you again for your attendance and comments

1 this evening. The time is now 7:49 p.m. and
2 this public hearing is officially adjourned.

3 (Whereupon, at 7:49 p.m., the
4 public hearing of the above-entitled
5 matter was concluded)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing hearing transcript consisting of 36 pages, represents a true and accurate transcript of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services Hearing of Heidelberg Materials Southeast Agg, LLC, Pelham Stone Mine, Spartanburg County, South Carolina (DHEC Application I-00431).

This transcript may contain quoted material. Such material is reproduced as read or quoted by the speaker.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 2nd day of November 2024.



Sallye D. Nelson
Verbatim Court Reporter

Notary Public for the
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires: May 5th, 2032