

**South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Air Quality**

Response to Comments

Diatom US Inc.

Andrews, Georgetown County, South Carolina

Permit No. CP-50000109 v1.0

The following is the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SC DHEC) Bureau of Air Quality (Department) response to the comment made during the formal comment period held September 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, regarding the draft synthetic minor air quality construction permit for Diatom US Inc. (Diatom).

The Department Decision, permit, statement of basis, this response document, and a letter of notification are located for viewing at the SC DHEC Columbia office located at 2600 Bull Street, Columbia SC 29201, and on our webpage at www.scdhec.gov/air-quality-permitting-decisions.

Hardcopies of all the above-listed documents, as well as the written comments received can be requested by contacting our Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Comment: Does DHEC plan to install air quality monitors around the Andrews/Georgetown area?

Department Response: No additional monitoring stations will be added in the Georgetown area as a result of this project. However, the absence of monitors in a particular area will not prevent evaluation of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) compliance for the proposed facility. Monitoring stations in South Carolina's ambient air monitoring network are specifically located to represent ambient pollution levels in diverse set of geographical areas. In accordance with 40 CFR Part 58 Appendix D, ambient air monitors are required to be placed in areas with the highest population, or where the highest pollutant concentrations are expected to occur. If an ambient monitor located in an area of higher emissions or concentrations demonstrates the air pollutant concentrations are lower than the levels set by the national health protective standards, then it is reasonable to expect that the air pollutant concentrations in other areas with lower emissions or concentrations will also be lower than the national standards.