

# South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Alvin A. Taylor  
Director  
Lorianne Riggan  
Director, Office of  
Environmental Programs

March 19, 2018

Ms. Wendy Hamilton  
SCDHEC/Mining Division  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: P/N I-002209, Allston Farrell, LLC, Buist Mine, Charleston County

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Personnel with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources have reviewed the above referenced project and offer the following comments.

The proposed project consists of the mining of sand and topsoil at a site located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Hollywood, SC. The area will be reclaimed to a lake and grassland following mining operations.

We recommend the following best management practices for mining be applied during the preparation, excavation, extraction, and reclamation phases of this project to insure that on-site and off-site impacts to natural resources are minimized.

- 1) Encroachment into wetland areas and stream systems should be avoided and adequate vegetated buffers should be established adjacent to wetland areas to prevent sedimentation and to protect wildlife functions. Projects should also be designed to prevent the drainage of adjoining wetland systems.
- 2) Land disturbances should be kept to a minimum and accomplished in phases if possible. Disturbed areas should be exposed only for the period of time required to extract the resource and vegetation should be re-established promptly.
- 3) Land clearing should not begin until sediment basins and other conservation practices have been established. Clearing should be limited to the areas to be immediately mined.
- 4) The number of overburden piles should be kept to a minimum and runoff should be diverted into the sediment basin until vegetation can be established. Overburden piles should not be placed in drainageways or floodways.
- 5) Upon completion, all disturbed areas should be permanently stabilized with a vegetative cover, riprap or other erosion control methods as appropriate. SCDNR prefers and recommends the use of native warm season grasses and/or other native forbs that would be beneficial for wildlife and pollinators for stabilization. Native warm season grass species

suggestions includes: switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). A list of beneficial pollinator plant species, such as milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*), for the southeast may be found at [www.xerces.org/pollinators-southeast-region/](http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-southeast-region/) or by visiting <http://www.pollinator.org/guides>.

6) At the time of reclamation of the mine site to a pond, if the ultimate goal for the pond is to provide recreational fishing opportunities, SCDNR recommends that you consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Clemson Extension to determine any modifications needed for increased productivity. These modifications could include the incorporation of as much shoreline variation with the use of peninsulas and islands in reclamation to provide ideal shoreline habitat for wildlife and aquatic vegetation. Care should be taken to create littoral zone habitat near shorelines, approximately 3 feet or less and the deeper portions of the pond should ideally be no more than 8 to 15 feet for recreational fishing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan F. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Susan F. Davis  
Coastal Environmental Coordinator