

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF DORCHESTER

In Re: )  
)  
)  
DLI Plantation Egeria Mine )  
Proposed Modification - )  
Mine Permit I-002170 )  
)  
)

TRANSCRIPT OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, June 3rd, 2021

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Via Remote Videoconference - All Parties

REPORTED BY:

Cara-Leigh V. Richardson

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 06 2021**

SC DHEC Bureau of Land  
& Waste Management

**ORIGINAL**

A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:

Donna Moye, HEARING OFFICER  
Wendy Hamilton, PRESENTER  
Kristy Ellenberg, TECH HOST  
Katherine Yon, TECH TEAM

Juli Blalock  
Wendy Boswell  
Brett Caswell  
Joe Koon  
Marty Lindler  
Tara Maddock  
Myra Reece  
Crystal Rippy  
Christopher Stout  
Jonathan Summa  
Monica Taylor

SPEAKERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Sid Mims  
Lauren M. Milton, SC ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROJECT  
Matthew Johnson, AUDUBON SOUTH CAROLINA  
Tim Evans, AUDUBON SOUTH CAROLINA  
Richard Armstrong  
Greg A. VanDerwerker

I N D E X

Proceeding	03
Certificate of Court Reporter	50

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MS. ELLENBERG: Good evening, everyone, and welcome.

3 Thank you so much for joining us for DHEC's  
4 Virtual Public Hearing and the Proposed  
5 Modification for the Egeria Mine Permit. I'm  
6 Kristy Ellenberg. I'm the Director of  
7 Collaborative Partnerships & Strategic  
8 Initiatives for DHEC's Office of Environmental  
9 Affairs, and tonight, I'm going to be serving  
10 as your Tech Host. It's a pleasure to be here  
11 with you.

12 On behalf of DHEC, I want to thank you  
13 for taking time to join in, join us remotely.  
14 I do have some assistance from our Tech Team  
15 tonight. I'd ask Katherine to introduce  
16 herself.

17 MS. YON: Good evening, everyone. This is  
18 Katherine Yon.

19 MS. ELLENBERG: So, Katherine and I are here to help  
20 throughout the meeting. In just a few  
21 minutes, you'll be introduced to other DHEC  
22 staff who are involved in tonight's virtual  
23 public hearing.

24 Katherine, if we can go to the next  
25 slide. If you are experiencing difficulties

1 and need to call in, there is an audio option.  
2 This information for the dial-in information  
3 is also available on our webpage that relates  
4 to tonight's meeting. That is  
5 [www.scdhec.gov/EgeriaMine](http://www.scdhec.gov/EgeriaMine).

6 So, we're using this technology to  
7 provide opportunities for continued  
8 participation in our decision-making  
9 processes, while we all do our part to reduce  
10 the spread of Coronavirus by following current  
11 federal and state guidelines that promote  
12 social distancing.

13 We want to hear from all who are  
14 interested, and as the state's public health  
15 agency, we are also making public health and  
16 safety a priority. So, we encourage you to  
17 help stop the spread of COVID. Let's fight  
18 this virus by rolling up our sleeves.  
19 Everyone ages 12 and older is now eligible for  
20 the COVID-19 vaccine. It's free, there's no  
21 ID, and no insurance, and no bills. So,  
22 for information on COVID-19 or to find a  
23 vaccine near you, please visit  
24 [www.scdhec.gov/vaxfacts](http://www.scdhec.gov/vaxfacts), V-A-X, F-A-C-T-S.

25 For tonight, our Tech Team will be doing

1 a few things to help improve audio. All lines  
2 have been muted in order to minimize  
3 background noise and echoing so that everyone  
4 can hear the presentation, as well as the  
5 birds in my backyard.

6 After the presentation, we will unmute  
7 lines, share some further instructions, and  
8 provide an opportunity for all who would like  
9 to provide public comment tonight, make sure  
10 you're able to do so.

11 This virtual meeting, virtual hearing is  
12 being recorded and the recording will be  
13 placed on our webpage in the next few days.  
14 We have started the recording.

15 So, we do have a full agenda tonight. I  
16 want to turn things over to Donna Moye, who'll  
17 be serving as our facilitator and hearing  
18 officer. Donna, are you ready?

19 MS. MOYE: I am ready, Kristy. Thank you so  
20 much.

21 Hello, and welcome. The time is now 6:32  
22 p.m. on Thursday, June 3rd, 2021, and this  
23 public hearing will now officially begin.

24 Again, my name is Donna Moye, and I will  
25 serve as the Hearing Officer tonight. It is a

1 pleasure to have you with us and we thank you  
2 for taking the time to join us remotely.

3 This public hearing is being held by the  
4 South Carolina Department of Health and  
5 Environmental Control, hereafter referred to  
6 as DHEC, and the purpose of this hearing is to  
7 accept oral comments and supporting  
8 information on the proposed modification of  
9 the Egeria Mine, located off of Beidler Forest  
10 Road, approximately 5.8 miles east of  
11 Harleyville, South Carolina, in Dorchester  
12 County.

13 The permitting process at DHEC begins  
14 when an application is received for one or  
15 more environmental permits. During the  
16 permitting process, an applicant must show  
17 that the proposed operation can comply with  
18 state and federal regulations. These  
19 regulations were developed to ensure that  
20 human health and the environment are  
21 protected. In addition to reviewing the  
22 application, DHEC's role is to write and, if  
23 issued, enforce permits that meet the  
24 requirements of the regulation.

25 You also have a role in DHEC's permitting

1 process. Your comments are important to us  
2 and may provide DHEC staff with additional  
3 things to consider when making a final  
4 decision regarding the proposed permit  
5 modification. It is important for you to know  
6 that a final decision has not yet been made  
7 and will not be made here tonight. The  
8 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide  
9 comments before a final decision is made.

10 Continuing to provide safe and effective  
11 opportunities for public involvement in our  
12 permitting process remains a top priority for  
13 DHEC in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
14 This public hearing is being held virtually  
15 because it allows you to provide verbal  
16 comments in real-time from the comfort of your  
17 own home. The virtual aspect does sometimes  
18 have its own unique challenges, and we  
19 appreciate your patience and understanding as  
20 we work through any technical issues that may  
21 arise during this hearing.

22 Comments made tonight are being recorded,  
23 as Kristy mentioned, and will be included in a  
24 written transcript prepared by a certified  
25 court reporter who is joining us tonight.

1 DHEC welcomes and encourages all comments made  
2 tonight, as well as those submitted in  
3 writing, through the end of the public comment  
4 period on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

5 As you are probably aware, DHEC has  
6 created a webpage for access to information  
7 about the proposed modification. The webpage  
8 address again is [www.scdhec.gov/EgeriaMine](http://www.scdhec.gov/EgeriaMine),  
9 E-G-E-R-I-A, M-I-N-E. A recording of this  
10 public hearing will be posted on the webpage  
11 prior to the end of the public comment period.

12 If you have not already done so, I  
13 encourage each of you to go to our webpage and  
14 complete the registration form for this  
15 hearing. This will let us know how to notify  
16 you of the final decision regarding the  
17 proposed modification.

18 We will now move on to our agenda and the  
19 order in which we will proceed for this  
20 hearing. An overview of the proposed  
21 modification and DHEC's mine permitting  
22 process will be provided by Wendy Hamilton.

23 Following the presentation, I will begin  
24 the public comment portion by calling on those  
25 of you who indicated during preregistration



1           that you would like to make a comment. If you  
2           have decided that you no longer wish to speak  
3           when you are called on, you may decline at  
4           that time.

5           Once we have finished hearing from all  
6           preregistered speakers, those who did not  
7           preregister to speak will be given an  
8           opportunity to make their comments. At that  
9           time, our Tech Host will give instructions on  
10          how to indicate that you would like to make a  
11          comment. And finally, after all comments have  
12          been heard, I will make closing remarks and  
13          this public hearing will be adjourned.

14          In order for everyone to have a fair and  
15          equal opportunity to participate tonight, and  
16          to ensure that we proceed in a timely and  
17          effective manner, the following four  
18          guidelines have been established:

19                 First: There will be no questions or  
20                 answers during or after a presentation or  
21                 comment.

22                 Second: Your comments should not go over  
23                 five minutes each. At the end of your  
24                 allotted time, you will hear this sound (timer  
25                 sound demonstrated). Thank you, Katherine.

1                   I will interrupt to remind you if you do  
2                   not conclude your comments at that time. If  
3                   you are not able to complete your comments  
4                   within the allotted time, you may still submit  
5                   them in writing before the end of the public  
6                   comment period. Please keep in mind that  
7                   final decisions are not made based on a vote  
8                   or how many people say the same thing.

9                   Third: Please be respectful towards all  
10                  who are presenting information or making  
11                  comments here tonight. You each have a unique  
12                  and valued perspective. No one comment is  
13                  considered more important than another; and  
14                  finally,

15                  Fourth: Please do not interrupt or ask  
16                  other participants to respond during your  
17                  comments. Should any comments or actions  
18                  begin to distract from the purpose of this  
19                  hearing, the speaker may be placed on mute or  
20                  removed from the online platform.

21                  And, Wendy, if you're ready, I think we  
22                  can begin with your presentation.

23                  MS. HAMILTON: Thank you, Donna. Let me get my  
24                  slide going.

25                  Good evening. As Donna said, you know,

1 my name is Wendy Hamilton, and I appreciate  
2 you attending tonight to give us your comments  
3 and concerns on the modification requested. I  
4 am the project manager for the modification  
5 requested for mine permit I-002170, issued to  
6 Dorchester Logistics for the Egeria Mine. So,  
7 tonight, I will reviewing the history of the  
8 mine, the requested modification, and explain  
9 the decision process.

10 This is an overview of the area. The  
11 mine is located on a tract outlined in yellow,  
12 and it's mostly comprised of larger tract of  
13 land, tracts of land in a rural area. Like  
14 many parcels in this site, this area, the  
15 tract has been in silviculture practices,  
16 cycling the harvest and replanting of trees.

17 Everyone is aware of the location as  
18 Donna's mentioned. It is northeast of the  
19 junction of Beidler Forest Road and Old Pond  
20 Road. According to Dorchester County, Old  
21 Pond Road is a privately owned road.

22 The parcel is comprised of 117 acres and  
23 it is leased by the operator. The requested  
24 expansion is east of the current operation as  
25 shown in the slide. Wetlands are present and

1           have been delineated. You can see the general  
2           flow in the green lines. These wetlands are  
3           protected from mine activity by a buffer of  
4           undisturbed vegetation.

5                       This mine was originally granted coverage  
6           under a general mine operating permit in April  
7           2008 to Risher Mining & Trucking, was granted  
8           GP1-001844. A GP1 restricts affected land to  
9           5 acres, to a maximum depth of 20 feet for the  
10          excavation of sand, sand clay, and topsoil.  
11          There's no processing allowed under the  
12          general permit.

13                      In September 2016, the GP1 permit was  
14          transferred from Risher Mining & Trucking to  
15          Dorchester Logistics, LLC (DLI). In February  
16          2018, DLI was issued an individual permit for  
17          the site expanding the permit area from 5 to  
18          26 acres. Last October, DLI requested to add  
19          acreage to the east.

20                      As stated, in June 2017, DLI requested an  
21          individual permit to expand the GP shown on  
22          this map in the blue circle and expanding it  
23          to the yellow outlined area. The proposed  
24          mine was certified as being consistent with  
25          policies contained in the South Carolina

1 Coastal Zone Management Program and the NPDES  
2 discharge permit was approved. Permit  
3 I-002170 was issued February the 9th, 2018,  
4 and it incorporated and cancelled the general  
5 permit.

6 I-002170 expanded the permit area to 27.7  
7 acres, allowed for the excavation of 24 acres  
8 of sand clay to a depth of 20 feet. The site  
9 is dewatered and discharge, discharges are  
10 controlled by the National Pollutant Discharge  
11 Elimination System, NPDES, permit standards.  
12 The active mine is buffered from wetlands and  
13 adjacent properties.

14 DLI submitted a modification to expand  
15 the permit in October. This basic map shows  
16 the original permit area outlined in rust, and  
17 I would like to note that with more accurate  
18 mapping and measuring tools, the modification  
19 corrected the acreage for the permit in  
20 Segment 1, reducing it by 1.2 acres. The  
21 modification expansion is outlined in green.  
22 The modification requests to expand the permit  
23 area by 74.3 acres to disturb a total of 62.3  
24 acres, which would include roads, setbacks,  
25 and excavations. Material is excavated and

1 stockpiled to be loaded onto trucks. No  
2 processing is done at the mine site. Buffers  
3 are expanded to protect the wetlands and  
4 adjacent properties. The wetland buffers on  
5 this map are shown in yellow. There is -- no  
6 change in depth was requested. DLI submitted  
7 a preliminary jurisdictional determination of  
8 all waters and wetlands on the tract, and as I  
9 said, these areas are buffered from mine  
10 activity.

11 As with the original application for the  
12 Egeria Mine, the modification request was put  
13 on public notice for comment. The notice was  
14 posted on the DHEC webpage, mailed to adjacent  
15 landowners, noticed to several state and  
16 federal agencies as noted on the side, slides,  
17 and advertised for the public. The request  
18 was published in the Post and Courier  
19 Newspaper, November 4, 2020, and November 11,  
20 2020.

21 DHEC did receive comments from the  
22 adjacent landowners. Of the agencies noticed,  
23 the Department of Natural Resources commented  
24 they had no, and expressed no concerns with  
25 threatened and endangered species. They

1                   commented to avoid wetlands, minimize land  
2                   disturbance, and install appropriate sediment  
3                   and erosion controls.

4                   Archives & History clarified the  
5                   expansion would not impact a known  
6                   archaeological, a known archaeological site  
7                   that is located on an adjacent tract. No  
8                   concerns were received from any other agencies  
9                   notified, and no additional studies were  
10                  requested. This hearing provides additional  
11                  opportunity to receive the comments from the  
12                  citizens.

13                  This is the current mine map, which was  
14                  revised from the initial mine map submitted.  
15                  It now notes current land ownership, and it  
16                  also adds a pipe to move water from the new  
17                  area to Segment 1 for settling, retention, and  
18                  discharge. Again, the 24 acres permitted and  
19                  affected for Segment 1 have been reduced by  
20                  1.2 acres to the actual 22.8 acres based on  
21                  better mapping and measurement technologies.

22                  As mentioned, the modification expands  
23                  the operation to the eastern side of the,  
24                  eastern side of the tract. DLI requested to  
25                  expand the permitted area by 75.5 acres. The

1           permitted area is any disturbed area,  
2           excavations, access, including the affected  
3           area, but it also includes buffer. There's no  
4           future reserves outlined for this site.  
5           They're adding Segments 2, 3, and 4, which you  
6           can see on the map to the east, to disturb an  
7           extra 39.5 acres: Segment 2 at 10.4; 3, 13.95;  
8           Segment 4, 15.11. So, they want to excavate a  
9           total of 62 acres. You can note the stockpile  
10          areas that are within the segments.

11                        There are also setbacks around the  
12          perimeter of the segments for access. These  
13          setbacks will be used for final grading of  
14          slopes at reclamation. There's a berm along  
15          the northern property line shown in brown.  
16          The buffer for this is increased to 39.7  
17          acres. It's along the wetlands that are shown  
18          in yellow and the property lines shown in  
19          green. As I said before, no change in depth  
20          was requested. The operator plans to pump  
21          water from the expansion into Segment 1 for  
22          retention and discharge.

23                        The main purpose of the South Carolina  
24          Mining Act is to return all mined lands to a  
25          useful purpose while ensuring safety and



1           protecting the environment. Mine operations  
2           are controlled by the demand for material. It  
3           is difficult to predict how long an operation  
4           will be in business. Mine permits are issued  
5           for the life of the operation.

6                     DLI submitted a proposed reclamation  
7           schedule for Segment 2 through 2024. They  
8           will need to revise the schedule for proposed  
9           dates for activities in Segments 3 and 4. The  
10          proposed reclamation for the Egeria Mine is  
11          ponds.

12                    Reclamation standards for a pond require  
13          a minimum depth of 4 feet over 50% of the  
14          surface area. Banks are to be graded to  
15          3-foot horizontal over a 1-foot vertical  
16          slope, and all bare areas vegetated with  
17          permanent vegetation.

18                    Every time -- The reclamation map shows  
19          the final slopes of 3-foot horizontal to  
20          1-foot vertical. The perimeter roads are  
21          planned to remain.

22                    Every mine operation is required to post  
23          financial assurance to ensure reclamation is  
24          performed. In the event a company cannot  
25          finalize reclamation at the mine, a bond can

1           be forfeited and DHEC will finalize the work.  
2           At this point, the final reclamation bond  
3           increase has not been determined.

4                   I would like to address a couple of  
5           common concerns expressed about mine  
6           applications that DHEC is not given authority  
7           to address under the South Carolina Mining Act  
8           and regulations.

9                   Site Location: Appropriate or compatible  
10          use is best determined on a local level. Mine  
11          operations locate where the material is found.  
12          DHEC cannot dictate where a facility locates;  
13          however, a permit decision does not override  
14          any zoning restrictions by local governments.

15                  The Use of Roads: DHEC can only evaluate  
16          impacts to public roads as it pertains to the  
17          physical effects from the mining operation  
18          such as undermining. Roads are buffered from  
19          mine activity. People are rightly concerned  
20          about the increase of truck traffic hauling  
21          mined material.

22                  The legal use of roads is under the  
23          jurisdiction of SC DOT, Department of  
24          Transportation, and the Dorchester County  
25          Department of Public Works. Illegal

1 activities such as weight, overweight,  
2 speeding, and hazardous driving need to called  
3 into the local law enforcement agencies.

4 After all comments are received and  
5 reviewed, DHEC will request any additional  
6 information needed from DLI. We will then  
7 finalize the technical review of the request.  
8 DHEC's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource  
9 Management will determine if the modification  
10 is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management  
11 Act. If so, OCRM will issue the Coastal Zone  
12 Consistency. The Bureau of Water will  
13 finalize the modification requested for the  
14 NPDES Discharge Permit. The CZC and NPDES  
15 must be approved in order for the mine  
16 modification to be finalized.

17 As mentioned on the last slide, if the  
18 request receives the CZC and NPDES approval,  
19 Mining will then finalize the decision on the  
20 permit modification. At that time, you will  
21 be notified of the final decision. With that  
22 notice will be a summary of how concerns were  
23 addressed and the process to appeal the  
24 decision. So, be sure we have your contact  
25 information and that you are on the mailing

1 list.

2 As Donna stated, the purpose of this  
3 hearing is to receive your comments, and if  
4 you have additional comments after tonight, we  
5 accept written comments until June the 15th.  
6 They may be mailed or submitted by email to me  
7 with the information on the slide. Donna...

8 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Wendy.

9 Before we transition into the comment  
10 portion, I will remind everyone that that, the  
11 presentation that you just saw has been posted  
12 on our webpage and will remain there if you  
13 would like to refer back to it later or share  
14 it with someone else who was not able to  
15 attend the hearing tonight, please feel free  
16 to do so.

17 I would like to reiterate that DHEC staff  
18 are here tonight to listen to your comments  
19 and about the mine and that answers or  
20 responses to questions will not be provided.

21 I will now call on those of you who  
22 indicated during preregistration that you  
23 would like to make a comment. After I call  
24 your name, you may unmute your line. Please  
25 state and spell your name for the court

1 reporter prior to speaking, and we will begin  
2 with Richard Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong, you  
3 can unmute your line. (Pause.)

4 MS. ELLENBERG: For those who may be joining us by  
5 phone for audio, you can use \*6 to unmute your  
6 line, and on the tech side, we'll make sure  
7 that we have that setting where participants  
8 are able to unmute at this time.

9 MS. YON: Yes, they are.

10 MS. MOYE: Mr. Armstrong, if you're with us,  
11 you can unmute your line now. If you're  
12 having difficulty, we'll be glad to move on to  
13 the next registered speaker and we'll come  
14 back to you. (Pause.)

15 So, next on our list is Sid and Claudia  
16 Mims. Mr. and Mrs. Mims, if you would like to  
17 unmute your line, you can begin making your  
18 comment now.

19 MS. ELLENBERG: Mr. and Mrs. Mims ---

20 MR. MIMS: Can you hear me?

21 MS. ELLENBERG: Yeah, there you are.

22 MS. MOYE: We can hear you, please go ahead.

23 MR. MIMS: Hello? Great. My name is Sid Mims,  
24 S-I-D, last name, Mims, M-I-M-S. I am right  
25 beside the existing pit that's been dug over

1           there, and I've got a couple of comments to  
2           make and I just want to move right along.

3                     I have really enjoyed the last couple of  
4           weeks in silence, because there's not a piece  
5           of equipment over there. Everybody's moved  
6           out, and I can really hear the birds early in  
7           the mornings, and, and my dog is not  
8           disturbed. So, I appreciate all that, and I,  
9           and I hope this continues, and it looks like  
10          you're moving to the backside of the property,  
11          so I might get some relief.

12                    First question: I see that there is a, a  
13          berm that's been created between me and the  
14          existing digging site, which I truly do  
15          appreciate. This will keep livestock and  
16          people and everything else off of it. What I  
17          would like to see is this berm continued on  
18          with, with the additions on the backside as  
19          well, which I feel sure Mr. Muckenfuss is  
20          going take care of that.

21                    But, my second concern is the earliness,  
22          what time they get started over there. I used  
23          to work for Dorchester County and I had to  
24          leave my house at six o'clock in the morning,  
25          and I would wake up to this sound, "Beep,

1           beep, beep, beep," and a lot of banging and  
2           clanging.

3                   My, my selfish request is please don't  
4           start the digging operation before seven  
5           o'clock in the morning. My wife doesn't get  
6           up that early and we built a little log cabin  
7           out here in the edge of the woods for a nice,  
8           quiet, serene, woodlands environment, and  
9           that's not very conducive to that at all, so  
10          if you could help me out with that.

11                   Also, would you please curtail Sunday  
12          activities as well? I know it's a six-day-a-  
13          week operation and they're running wide open  
14          and a lot of people need a lot of dirt, but  
15          Sunday is the day of the Sabbath, and please,  
16          if they can, if at all possible, observe the  
17          Sabbath. And that's about all I have for you.

18                   (Pause.) Hello?

19          MS. MOYE:        Thank you so much, Mr. Mims. We got  
20                            your comments and we certainly want to make  
21                            note that it's important to you that your wife  
22                            be happy. So, we thank you for giving us  
23                            those comments.

24          MR. MIMS:        Well, you know what they say, "A  
25                            happy wife, a happy life."

1 MS. MOYE: Yes, sir.

2 MR. MIMS: Right now, my wife ain't real happy.

3 MS. MOYE: Yes, sir; we hear you. Thank you so  
4 much for giving us your comments.

5 MR. MIMS: Okie doke.

6 MS. MOYE: And next on our list is Lauren  
7 Milton with the South Carolina Environmental  
8 Law Project. Ms. Milton, if you are with us,  
9 you want to unmute your line. (Pause.) Ms.  
10 Lauren Milton with the South Carolina  
11 Environmental Law Project.

12 MS. ELLENBERG: Again, from the tech side -- there  
13 you are, Lauren.

14 MS. MILTON: All right. Give me one second. I  
15 apologize.

16 MS. MOYE: No, you're fine.

17 MS. MILTON: I wasn't sure if y'all could hear me  
18 over computer or telephone, but y'all can hear  
19 me now, correct?

20 MS. MOYE: We can hear you. Thank you. You  
21 can go ahead.

22 MS. MILTON: Just a second, I apologize. All  
23 right. So, my name is Lauren Megill Milton.  
24 I'm an attorney with the South Carolina  
25 Environmental Law Project, and I'm here



1                   tonight in support of Audubon South Carolina.

2                   First and foremost, I just want to take a  
3 chance to thank DHEC for organizing this  
4 meeting. I know I appreciate the opportunity  
5 to comment on this application, and I'm sure  
6 everybody else here does, too.

7                   Over the last several months, I've been  
8 reviewing this modification proposal to better  
9 understand the specific implications for this  
10 particular mine, and as an attorney, one of  
11 the goals of my work is to better understand  
12 how DHEC utilizes the laws that we have in  
13 South Carolina, like our water quality,  
14 Coastal Zone Management rules, the South  
15 Carolina Mining Act, and all of its associated  
16 regulations to strike the balance between  
17 commercial and environmental interests.

18                   From my review and in the framework of  
19 the Mining Act's key component, which is  
20 48-20-70, I've got to tell you, it's difficult  
21 to imagine a worse site in North America to  
22 conduct a mining operation. For over 50  
23 years, Audubon and its conservation partners  
24 have worked tirelessly to protect the Beidler  
25 Forest and Four Holes Swamp. South Carolina

1 Code 50-11-910 declared the forest to be a  
2 sanctuary under state law. It's also a  
3 registered national landmark, and it's been  
4 globally recognized as one of only a handful  
5 of Ramsar Wetlands of International  
6 Significance.

7 Four Holes Swamp is also in the  
8 headwaters of the Edisto River, which is the  
9 longest undammed black water river in North  
10 America. The swamp feeds one-third of the  
11 flow of water to the Edisto River, which the  
12 entire tri-county area relies on as a drinking  
13 water source, and as one of the last remaining  
14 old-growth forests on the east coast, Four  
15 Holes Swamp provides a critical habitat to  
16 hundreds of plant and animal species,  
17 including a ton of threatened and vulnerable  
18 species who find their homes onsite and in the  
19 trees of the forest. Some of the trees that  
20 are there are over 1500 years old. Because a  
21 natural landscape filters out pollutants that  
22 protect the swamp, that protects the forest,  
23 that not only benefits the community, the  
24 people, and the resources downstream, but it  
25 enhances the habitat for the species that

1 thrive in the sanctuary in the surrounding  
2 areas.

3 It's because of those reasons that any  
4 activity that proposes to discharge into Four  
5 Holes Swamp, it really should receive the most  
6 intense scrutiny. And I'm concerned here  
7 because there's still a lot that's unknown  
8 about the project.

9 The applicant proposes to discharge its  
10 groundwater and stormwater from its dewatering  
11 activities into Four Holes Swamp, which it  
12 will do after settling into a previously mined  
13 pit area. But regulation 89-120(C)(1)(b)  
14 states that the best sediment control BMPs  
15 mean retaining sediment within the pit of the  
16 actively disturbed area. We also have no  
17 estimated discharge amount or contingency plan  
18 on how they might treat the water after  
19 settling if it still doesn't meet the TSS and  
20 pH discharge requirements.

21 And while I appreciate the onsite wetland  
22 avoidance, we also don't have enough  
23 information on the strain that the operation  
24 might have on the existing onsite wetlands,  
25 and the resulting effect that it might have on

1           the water table since the maximum depth  
2           apparently depends on the usable fill layers  
3           when digging on final depth.

4           We have no information on the duration of  
5           the mine to assess accumulative impacts, and  
6           we don't have nearly enough information on the  
7           nearby cultural and historic resources.

8           What is so important to me is that we  
9           don't have adequate information on, or the  
10          quality of, or the representations about the  
11          forest cover, the wildlife, and the habitat  
12          that's present in the area and the impacts  
13          that there might be on them. We know both the  
14          forest and the swamp provide a critical  
15          habitat to a lot of different species and I  
16          continue to worry about fragmentation, which  
17          is a huge issue that we deal with here in  
18          South Carolina.

19          If our environmental laws in South  
20          Carolina mean anything, it has to balance the  
21          interest between commercial and environmental  
22          interests, and it's particularly important as  
23          it relates to our most precious resources,  
24          like Audubon's Beidler Forest, like Four Holes  
25          Swamp, and there's no concept of balance if

1           we're willing to risk the health of one of  
2           most important natural areas in our country in  
3           exchange for a mine with indeterminate  
4           impacts.

5                     And for all these reasons and a lot more,  
6           I'm asking DHEC and the mine owner tonight to  
7           proactively resolve the concerns that you  
8           hear, and ensure that this project has the  
9           least possible impact on the environment, and  
10          if that cannot be done, I'm asking you to deny  
11          this permit.

12                    And I, again, thank you guys so much for  
13          your time and organizing this tonight.

14          MS. MOYE:        Thank you, Ms. Milton, and thank you  
15          as well for helping me with the pronunciation  
16          of Beidler Forest.  That's one that I've gone  
17          back and forth about, so, I, I appreciate now  
18          knowing the, the correct way to say it.

19                    Okay, before we move on, I would like to  
20          give Mr. Armstrong again the opportunity to  
21          unmute and make his comment if he is with us.  
22          Mr. Richard Armstrong, if you are with us  
23          tonight, you can unmute your line.  (Pause.)

24                    We will give you another opportunity  
25          before we wrap up the comment portion.  So, I

1 hope that if you're having difficulty joining  
2 us online that you will call in by phone.

3 And, Katherine, maybe if we can put that  
4 slide back up with that call-in information,  
5 that might be helpful.

6 So, we also have Matthew Johnson who  
7 registered to speak on behalf of Audubon of  
8 South Carolina. Mr. Johnson, are you with us?

9 MR. JOHNSON: I am. Can you hear me?

10 MS. MOYE: Yes, sir, I can. Thank you so much.

11 If you'll please proceed.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. My name is Matt Johnson,  
13 M-A-T-T, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

14 Hello, and, and thank you for providing  
15 this opportunity for public comments related  
16 to this project.

17 As I stated, my name is Matt Johnson and  
18 I am the Center Director at the Beidler Forest  
19 Audubon Center and Sanctuary, which is located  
20 at 336 Sanctuary Road in Harleyville, South  
21 Carolina.

22 The Beidler Forest Audubon Center is an  
23 18,000-acre wildlife sanctuary. It's located  
24 in Dorchester, Berkley, and Orangeburg  
25 Counties. Lauren mentioned a few of the, of

1 the accolades to Beidler and I'm going to  
2 reiterate some of those.

3 Beidler Forest has been designated a  
4 Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.  
5 It's one of only two sites with that  
6 designation in South Carolina. It's a  
7 national natural landmark and it's an  
8 important bird area. Some 180 different bird  
9 species have been documented on the,  
10 documented on the sanctuary, including  
11 threatened species like the wood stork.

12 Beidler also has an important cultural  
13 history, and recently has been designated as a  
14 site on the National Park Service's  
15 Underground Railroad Network to Freedom  
16 Program. In addition, Beidler Forest has been  
17 declared a wildlife sanctuary by the State of  
18 South Carolina under Code 50-11-910 in 1976.

19 One concern that we have about the  
20 expansion of the DLI Plantation Egeria Mine is  
21 its proximity to this wildlife sanctuary and  
22 the, and the effects that the expansion could  
23 have on a number of issues, including threats  
24 to wildlife, reduced water quality, impacts to  
25 groundwater, and more. The potential adverse

1 effects that this project could have on  
2 wildlife must be more explicitly studied, we  
3 feel, and that's stated in the South Carolina  
4 Mining Act under Code 40, 48-20-70.

5 In addition, Beidler is, is publicly  
6 accessible. We have a nature center and a  
7 1.75-mile, ADA-accessible elevated boardwalk.  
8 The center has been open since the 1970s.  
9 It's a resource for the local community and  
10 it's visited by thousands of people each year,  
11 including hundreds of school children. It's a  
12 treasured resource for the State of South  
13 Carolina, as it represents original-growth  
14 forest, a rare habitat now anywhere in the  
15 United States. In addition to being a home  
16 for wildlife and a place for people to  
17 experience nature, Beidler Forest also offers  
18 many guided programs, including canoe and  
19 kayak tours.

20 A second concern of ours that I wanted to  
21 relate is, is, is related to access to our  
22 property, which our staff live and our  
23 visitors travel to during public programs.  
24 Canoe trips and other programs utilize our  
25 deeded access to Old Pond Road, which is also



1           used as an access point for the DLI Plantation  
2           Egeria Mine. We've had -- we have long had  
3           issues with road quality from heavy truck  
4           traffic use and we really worry about this  
5           traffic only getting worse if the expansion is  
6           permitted. Deleterious impacts on our access  
7           to roads and thus really our ability to  
8           conduct Audubon business is a major concern of  
9           ours related to this project.

10           We do have additional concerns related to  
11           the application for the expansion of this  
12           mine, some of which Lauren has already  
13           mentioned, and I will defer to her comments  
14           and the colleague -- and the comments of my  
15           other colleagues on the call to express those  
16           to you, but I would like to say thank you  
17           again for providing this time to offer these  
18           comments and I will, I will stop there. Thank  
19           you.

20           MS. MOYE:           Thank you so much, Mr. Johnson.

21           And I would like to mention that if you  
22           have your comments in writing, I know there's  
23           some -- we want to make sure that the court  
24           reporter is able to understand and to  
25           transcribe the words correctly as they're

1           said.

2                       Sometimes it's a little hard to hear on  
3           the virtual meeting, so if you have your  
4           comments already prepared in writing and could  
5           submit those to Wendy by email, that would be  
6           great. We'll make sure to get those to the  
7           court reporter in case she can use them as  
8           she's preparing the transcript.

9                       So, next we have Tim Evans with Audubon  
10           South Carolina. Mr. Evans, are you with us?

11           MR. EVANS:       Yes, thank you.

12           MS. MOYE:       Thank you.

13           MR. EVANS:       I'm Tim Evans, T-I-M, E-V-A-N-S. I  
14           am the Forest Program Manager for Audubon  
15           South Carolina, and I'll be brief in that Matt  
16           and Lauren have done a pretty good job so far  
17           covering the larger issues.

18                       My primary concern is the function that  
19           Beidler Forest plays in water quality  
20           throughout the, the upper Four Holes and lower  
21           Four Holes drainages. As you're aware, Four  
22           Holes is a completely rainfall-fed system  
23           arising in Calhoun County until its junction  
24           with the Edisto River. As such, Four Holes  
25           flows when we are in wet times of the year and

1           it, it doesn't flow when things dry out.

2                        So, it, it's not a function -- a  
3           stream-fed or, or otherwise fed riverine  
4           system. It's reliant on rainfall. In doing  
5           so, when those major rainfall pulses occur,  
6           Four Holes serves as, as a filtration system  
7           for that water before entering into the  
8           Edisto.

9                        We've done years of research in benthic  
10          organisms and, and water quality within Four  
11          Holes, and have documented the quality of the  
12          water exiting the system after it's been  
13          through the filtration of the forest, and  
14          anytime there is an opportunity for discharge  
15          of potentially sediment-laden material into  
16          Four Holes, it, it's a grave concern to us in  
17          terms of the overall water quality of the  
18          system. So, the idea of a new mine pumping  
19          water in, into it that may not be properly  
20          cleaned before it enters the system or may be  
21          carrying a sediment load outside of accepted  
22          standards is a major concern for us.

23                        Beyond that, the idea of having the mine  
24          so close to what we currently operate in terms  
25          of cabins, wells, and a major bluff and seep,

1 we, we are concerned with the idea that the  
2 groundwater could be impacted and the flow to  
3 those seeps may be interrupted. Those seeps  
4 function through water filtration through the  
5 upper sandy layers of soil until they get to  
6 impermeable layers, and then travel along  
7 those impermeable layers until they reach the  
8 bluff where they form seeps going to Mallard  
9 Lake.

10 Any interruption in that water flow has  
11 and does impact flow to those seeps which are,  
12 which are unique habitats for insects and  
13 herpetofauna along the bluffs that aren't  
14 found other places on the forest.

15 Those are, are my bigger concerns, but I,  
16 I plan to provide a written comment as well,  
17 and again, I'd like to thank you for the  
18 opportunity to comment.

19 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Evans. We appreciate  
20 that.

21 And before we move on to the unregistered  
22 speakers, I would like to jump back to Mr.  
23 Richard Armstrong.

24 Mr. Armstrong, if you are with us and if  
25 you are able to unmute your line.

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Hello?

2 MS. MOYE: Yes, Mr. Armstrong?

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Hello, this is Richard Armstrong.

4 MS. MOYE: Yes, can you hear me?

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, ma'am, I had to call in. I  
6 can't seem to unmute you on the computer.

7 MS. MOYE: Okay, good. Well, I'm so glad we  
8 have you now. Thank you so much. Please go  
9 ahead.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. It's Richard Armstrong,  
11 R-I-C-H-A-R-D, last name Armstrong,  
12 A-R-M-S-T-R-O-N-G, and just a couple comments.

13 I, I do go down there to go fishing at  
14 Mallard Lake and I've never seen sediment  
15 fence, but it shows on the plans there that  
16 there's a sediment fence all the way around  
17 the place. I don't know, does DHEC have a  
18 specific timespan that they go and inspect  
19 these, these mines, because it just seems that  
20 they can, you know, kind of do anything they  
21 want. The, the trucks are tearing up the  
22 roads; I know you say you can't do that.

23 So, is our only option there to call law  
24 enforcement and Department of Transportation  
25 to fix the roads and also to control the

1                   overweight dump trucks? And that's about all  
2                   I've got.

3           MS. MOYE:           Thank you so much, Mr. Armstrong. I  
4                   hope that you were able to at least hear us  
5                   earlier when I mentioned that we will not be  
6                   answering questions during this formal public  
7                   hearing.

8                   Our, our main intent of this is to listen  
9                   to your comments and questions, but certainly,  
10                  if you would like to discuss your questions  
11                  prior to the end of the public comment period,  
12                  we encourage you to do that, to get in touch  
13                  with Ms. Hamilton, or she can reach out to  
14                  you.

15                  So, thank you so much for joining us.  
16                  I'm glad we finally got to hear you and your  
17                  comments have been documented, so thank you so  
18                  much.

19           MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

20           MS. MOYE:           Okay. So, it looks like that is  
21                   everyone who previously, who registered on the  
22                   registration form, who indicated on a  
23                   registration form that they would like to make  
24                   a comment. I think we were able to get to  
25                   everyone.

1                   So, now, we will start with every, with  
2                   those who did not preregister to speak, but  
3                   have decided to make a comment during the  
4                   hearing. And our Tech Host, Kristy Ellenberg,  
5                   will give instructions on how to indicate that  
6                   you would like to make a comment at this time.

7                   So, Kristy, if you would like to show  
8                   that slide and give everyone who has not  
9                   commented yet some instructions on how to let  
10                  us know that they would like to comment, and  
11                  then we'll get started with, with those.

12                MS. ELLENBERG: Yeah, thank you so much, Donna.

13                  Again, as, as the slide is noting, there  
14                  are several ways that you can indicate that  
15                  you would like to speak. One is by using the  
16                  raise your hand feature. There's an icon on  
17                  the, if you joined by computer, on the board,  
18                  and I see someone who's already doing that.  
19                  That is a helpful thing, to go ahead and raise  
20                  your hand and we will keep it raised.

21                  Also, especially if you're joining by  
22                  phone and you would like to be able to, to let  
23                  us know that you'd like to speak, if you could  
24                  press \*6 to unmute at this time. What we'll  
25                  do is we'll try to capture those and kind of

1 get those names lined up and then Donna will  
2 be able to, to call on you.

3 So, if you'd like to comment, please let  
4 us know by raising your hand at this time or  
5 using \*6 to unmute on your phone. Our Tech  
6 Team will note those who are asking to speak.  
7 We may mute you right back or -- we'll  
8 probably keep your hand actually raised at  
9 this time, and then Donna can call on you  
10 either by name or the last four digits of your  
11 phone number when it's your time to speak.

12 And again, as you get called on, just to  
13 help out with our court reporter again, if you  
14 could start out by clearly stating and  
15 spelling your name.

16 So, let's see. Anyone else? I see we  
17 have some people who are, who are already  
18 raising a hand, but if we have some others  
19 that are unmuting, please do that, and we will  
20 start calling, calling on people shortly.

21 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Kristy.

22 We'll go ahead and get started with  
23 Sharon Richardson. Ms. Richardson, if you're  
24 with us, you can unmute your line now.

25 MS. ELLENBERG: I think Ms. Richardson was, was



1 unmuted when she was first joining and we  
2 muted her earlier on the Tech Team side. I  
3 was kind of matching up a phone number from  
4 the registration, so. Ms. Richardson ---

5 MS. MOYE: Our Tech Team ---

6 MS. ELLENBERG: Yeah.

7 MS. MOYE: Our Tech Team is much more advanced  
8 than me, obviously, so.

9 We have noted, Ms. Richardson, that you  
10 did indicate you would like to make a comment,  
11 so we will be glad to hear from you now or we  
12 can come back to you in a few minutes.

13 (Pause.) Okay, we'll come back to Ms.  
14 Richardson.

15 I see Greg. I really hope I don't  
16 butcher your name. Is it VanDerwerker?

17 MR. VANDERWERKER: Yes, that's correct.

18 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much.

19 MR. VANDERWERKER: Thank you.

20 MS. MOYE: If you would, please, spell your  
21 name for the court reporter, and you can begin  
22 your comments.

23 MR. VANDERWERKER: Sure. First name is Greg,  
24 G-R-E-G, last name VanDerwerker, V, as in  
25 Victor, A-N-D, as in David, E-R-W-E-R-K-E-R.

1           And I am a resident of John's Island, so I'm  
2           not cheek by jowl to the project like Mr. Mims  
3           is, but I do have a great affection for the  
4           area having traveled up there and been in the  
5           forest, and on the waters there.

6                     Looking at the slide, I think it was  
7           Number 13, showing the new project where  
8           they're going to be digging around. (Tech  
9           Team shows Slide 13.) Yes, thank you. A, B,  
10          and C are wetlands. I'm not a hydrologist,  
11          but it seems to me if you have those wetlands  
12          and you dig 20 feet down around them, they're  
13          no longer wetlands; they become highlands.  
14          So, it's going to dewater those wetlands and  
15          they actually will not longer be wetlands.

16                    Probably the same thing with that sleuth  
17          indicated D, where it's already dug on one  
18          side. If you dig out the other side, you're  
19          probably going to drain -- that's not going to  
20          be a wetland. It'll just be a prairie or some  
21          such thing.

22                    Also, they indicate a pipe going from the  
23          new project to the old project that states  
24          it's just going to be laying on the surface of  
25          the land. I think that, that pipe is probably

1           going to be about 500, 550 feet long laying  
2           over that, if, if my estimate is correct,  
3           which is about a tenth of a mile. So,  
4           basically, you're going to be building a dam  
5           on that wetland flow, impeding any, any flow  
6           down there.

7                        So, I really wonder how much, if any,  
8           hydrology DHEC goes into in these projects and  
9           being so close to the forest and the, the  
10          stream, rivers there, it looks like it's going  
11          to have a major effect.

12                       Also, discharges, I don't know much about  
13          them or how often they do them, and I don't  
14          know what DHEC's modus operandi is, but is  
15          there any attempt at, at determining heavy  
16          metals or toxic metals in the discharge water?  
17          Whether there's any arsenic, lead, other heavy  
18          metals either naturally occurring or from  
19          previous disturbances in the past history of  
20          that land would be important to know. If  
21          that's not being done, it certainly needs to  
22          be.

23                       And finally, I see that in the  
24          application, they currently have a, a bond, a  
25          project bond for \$25,000 for the current

1 project, and they do not -- they, from the  
2 application, it looks like they expect the  
3 \$25,000 to cover the whole project, including  
4 the addition. That seems ridiculously small  
5 even for this project as it is, but, you know,  
6 to, to say, "Well, 25,000 -- I'll leave for  
7 \$25,000 and let somebody else take care of  
8 it." You know, that's, that's really pretty  
9 ludicrous for a project like this in such a  
10 sensitive area.

11 So, thank you for your time, and I  
12 appreciate the opportunity.

13 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. VanDerwerker, and I'm  
14 really glad that I did not butcher your name  
15 too bad, so thank you so much.

16 Okay, we want to go back to see. Again,  
17 if you would like to make a comment at this  
18 time, you can raise your hand or unmute your  
19 line. Our Tech Team is watching those lines  
20 to, to be able to grab your name or your phone  
21 number whenever you do so, so that we can call  
22 on you. (Pause.)

23 I want to make sure that we give everyone  
24 an opportunity to make their comments tonight  
25 while we're all here.

1                   We did note that the telephone number  
2                   ending with 9494 was unmuted earlier in the  
3                   evening. If that is your number and you would  
4                   like to join us now, please unmute again.

5                   (Pause.)

6                   And we had a small enough crowd with us  
7                   tonight that we really would like to be able  
8                   to get to all the comments, so please feel  
9                   free to, to share those with us now. (Pause.)

10                  I have noticed that there, there have  
11                  been several questions in the comments, and we  
12                  do appreciate those. Like I stated earlier,  
13                  we're not responding those, to, to those  
14                  tonight, but I would like to take the  
15                  opportunity to provide Ms. Hamilton's phone  
16                  number. If you would like to follow up with  
17                  her after, after the hearing tonight, we  
18                  certainly want you to, to do that, especially  
19                  before the comment period, if it will help you  
20                  in submitting comments to us. That's Wendy  
21                  Hamilton, who is in our Columbia office. I  
22                  know we accidentally left her number off of  
23                  the slide, so I'd like to provide it for you  
24                  here tonight. It is (803), that will be the  
25                  area code, 898-1368. Again, that's 898-1368.

1 I can tell you, if we were in an  
2 in-person meeting now, Wendy would be talking  
3 with you face to face. She's been doing this  
4 quite a long time and enjoys having those  
5 personal conversations, and I know that she  
6 misses that having this virtual hearing  
7 tonight. So, please, don't hesitate to phone  
8 her or send her an email, and she will be glad  
9 to get in touch with you to answer any  
10 questions that you may have before the end of  
11 the public comment period.

12 So, I want to check back with our Tech  
13 Team now to make sure. Have we had anyone  
14 else indicating they would like to make a  
15 comment, Kristy?

16 MS. ELLENBERG: I am not seeing any new hands raised  
17 or, or lines unmuting at this time. So,  
18 again, if someone would like to add a comment  
19 to this record tonight, please raise your hand  
20 now, and as the slide notes, you can also  
21 submit comments by mail or email through June  
22 15th. (Pause.)

23 Donna, I'm not seeing any other people  
24 looking to comment tonight.

25 MS. MOYE: Okay. Thank you, Kristy.

1                   It looks like we have been, or you have  
2                   been on this call with us tonight. We so  
3                   appreciate it. It's been about an hour now,  
4                   and we want to make sure that we are  
5                   respectful of your time tonight in joining us.

6                   So, again, as Kristy said, if you decide  
7                   that you would like to submit comments, please  
8                   do so through June 15th, and they will be  
9                   added to the record, or our official record of  
10                  comments for this site. (Pause.)

11                  So, with that, since we do not see that  
12                  there are any other attendees who have  
13                  indicated they would like to make a comment,  
14                  we will close the comment portion of tonight's  
15                  public hearing.

16                  On behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank  
17                  everyone again for joining us tonight and  
18                  giving us your comments. Please note once  
19                  again, as has been stated many times, that  
20                  written comments may be submitted to us by  
21                  mail or email through June 15, 2021. I  
22                  believe that is on a Tuesday.

23                  DHEC will review and consider all  
24                  comments received during the public comment  
25                  period and will request additional information

1 from the applicant, if necessary. A decision  
2 will then be made to approve or deny the  
3 proposed permit modification. The permit  
4 decision and a summary response to all written  
5 comments received will be posted on our  
6 webpage and provided to everyone on our  
7 mailing list.

8 You have the right to request a final  
9 review of any permit decision made by DHEC.  
10 The final review request must be submitted in  
11 writing to DHEC's Clerk of the Board, along  
12 with a filing fee in the amount of \$100,  
13 within 15 days after notice of DHEC's permit  
14 decision has been mailed.

15 In consideration of this requirement, you  
16 will receive notification of DHEC's permit  
17 decision by standard U.S. Mail or by email.  
18 If you wish to be notified of DHEC's decision  
19 by certified mail instead, please make your  
20 request in writing no later than June 15,  
21 2021.

22 On behalf of DHEC, I would again like to  
23 thank you for your attendance and comments  
24 this evening. As the state's public health  
25 agency, DHEC encourages you to help us win the



1 fight against COVID-19 by getting a safe,  
2 effective, and free vaccine at a convenient  
3 location near you.

4 The time is now 7:28 p.m., and this  
5 hearing is officially adjourned. You may  
6 disconnect from the meeting at this time.  
7 Goodnight and stay safe.

8 (Whereupon, at 7:28 p.m., the public  
9 hearing was concluded)

10 (\*This transcript may contain quoted material.  
11 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted  
12 by the speaker.)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA    )  
  )    C E R T I F I C A T E  
COUNTY OF HORRY            )

BE IT KNOWN, that I, Cara-Leigh V. Richardson,  
took the foregoing proceeding and hereby attest:

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 foregoing public hearing was taken down  
by me and reduced to written form by means of Stenomask  
with backup;

That the foregoing transcript represents a true,  
accurate, and complete transcription of said hearing 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;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto  
affixed my signature and title.



Cara-Leigh V. Richardson

Date: June 23rd, 2021  
Notary public for South Carolina  
My commission expires July 10, 2025