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PUBLIC MEETING

April 01, 2021

In Reference to: Haile Gold Mine

REPORTER: Kathryn Bostrom

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In Reference to:)
Haile Gold Mine) PUBLIC MEETING
) APRIL 1, 2021
_____)

Public meeting, reported by Kathryn Bostrom, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina; said meeting was taken via Zoom video-conference, Columbia, South Carolina, on Thursday, the 1st day of April, 2021, commencing at the hour of 6:33 p.m.

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APPEARANCES :

From SC DHEC:

- Donna Moye
- Jeremy Eddy
- Lawra Boyce
- Kristy Ellenberg
- Katherine Yon

Also:

- Shawn Boone

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EXHIBIT INDEX:

There were no exhibits marked during this proceeding.

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Court Reporter's Legend:

- dashes [--] Intentional or purposeful interruption
- [ph] Denotes phonetically written
- [sic] Written as said

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MS. BOYCE: Thank you for joining us tonight for this
3 virtual public hearing held jointly with DHEC
4 Bureau of Land and Waste Management and the
5 United States Army Corps of Engineers. I am
6 Lawra Boyce. I'm the community engagement
7 coordinator for DHEC's office of environmental
8 affairs. I will be serving as the technology
9 host for tonight's virtual hearing. There are
10 several other people on our tech team who will be
11 assisting me tonight and I will ask them to
12 introduce themselves.

13 MS. ELLENBERG: Good evening. This is Kristy
14 Ellenberg.

15 MS. YON: Good evening, everyone. This is Katherine
16 Yon.

17 MS. BOYCE: Thanks, y'all. For those of us who are
18 joining us as attendees if you're having trouble
19 joining the meeting using th Microsoft team's app
20 on your computer or online, you can join by
21 phone. Or if you know someone who is having
22 trouble accepting it through the computer or
23 online, you can let them know they can join by
24 phone. The call in number and access code are on
25 the screen right now. They are also provided in

1 the email who -- that was sent to all who
2 registered on DHEC's web page and it's also on
3 our web page for this project. That web page is
4 South Carolina -- sorry, scdhec.gov/Hailemine.
5 That's s-c-dhec.gov/Hailemine. We are using this
6 technology tonight to provide opportunities for
7 continued participation in our decision making
8 processes while we do our part to reduce the
9 spread of Corona Virus by following current
10 federal, state, and local guidelines. As the
11 state's public health agency, we do encourage you
12 to take steps to help stop the spread of Covid
13 and be positive you're negative by routinely
14 getting checked if you are out in the community
15 or attending events. For the latest information
16 on Covid-19, including testing and vaccine
17 locations, visit www.scdhec.gov/covid19. Your
18 participation tonight is very important to us.
19 We have gone to extensive efforts to ensure that
20 anyone who is interested in engaging with us, has
21 the ability to do so. We're continuing to
22 evaluate the tools and accommodations and we
23 welcome your input on how we may be able to
24 provide your experience -- improve your
25 experience with the virtual participation.

1 Please give us your thoughts in a feedback survey
2 that will be posted on our web page after
3 tonight's hearing.

4 A couple of tips just to help make sure you
5 have the best experience with tonight's hearing.
6 We do encourage you to close other applications
7 that may be running on your computer and to turn
8 off any other streaming services --

9 (audio disconnect)

10 MS. MOYE: Thank you Lawra. Hello. The time is now
11 6:33 pm on April 1, 2021 and this public hearing
12 will now begin. It's a pleasure to have you with
13 us and we thank you for taking the time to join
14 us remotely. This public being held jointly by
15 the South Carolina Department of Health and
16 Environmental Control, hereafter referred to as
17 DHEC, and the United States Army Corps of
18 Engineers, hereafter referred to as the Corps.
19 The purpose of this hearing is to accept all
20 comments and supporting information on the
21 purposed expansion of Haile Gold Mine located in
22 southern Lancaster County at 6911 Snowy Owl Road
23 in Kershaw, South Carolina. As you know, Covid-
24 19 has impacted the way we all communicate with
25 each other, both personally and professionally.

1 This public hearing is being held virtually as we
2 continue our efforts of preventing the spread of
3 Covid-19 through social distancing and the
4 avoidance of large group gatherings. While the
5 business of our state continues during this time,
6 ensuring safe and effective opportunities for
7 comments to be submitted remains our top
8 priority. This online platform was chosen
9 because it allows your comments to be heard in
10 real time. This technology does sometimes have
11 it's own unique challenges. We appreciate
12 your patience and understanding as we work
13 through any technical issues that may arise
14 during your time with us tonight. Your comments
15 are important to us and will be considered as
16 they relate to final decisions by DHEC and the
17 Corps regarding the proposed expansion of Haile
18 Gold Mine. Final decisions on the draft
19 supplemental environmental impact statement,
20 hereafter referred to as the SEIS and the mine
21 operating permit application has not yet been
22 made and will not be made here tonight. The
23 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide
24 comments before final decisions are made.
25 Comments made tonight are being recorded by a

1 court reporter and will be included in the
2 written transcription of everything that is said
3 during this public hearing. DHEC and the Corps
4 welcomes all comments made tonight, as well as
5 through submitted in writing by the end of the
6 public comment period on Friday, April 23, 2021.
7 DHEC and the Corps have created separate web
8 pages for access to information about the
9 proposed expansion. The web page address for
10 DHEC information is [www.s-c-d-h-e-c-.g-o-v-/-h-](http://www.s-c-d-h-e-c-.g-o-v-/-h-a-i-l-e-m-i-n-e)
11 [a-i-l-e-m-i-n-e](http://www.s-c-d-h-e-c-.g-o-v-/-h-a-i-l-e-m-i-n-e). That's Haile Mine with no
12 space. The web page address for the Corps
13 information is [www.h-a-i-l-e-g-o-l-d-m-i-n-e-s-e-](http://www.h-a-i-l-e-g-o-l-d-m-i-n-e-s-e-i-s)
14 [i-s](http://www.h-a-i-l-e-g-o-l-d-m-i-n-e-s-e-i-s) and that also is with no spaces. These web
15 addresses will be provided to you later in the
16 presentation as well. This public hearing is
17 being recorded and will be posted on DHEC's web
18 page along with tonight's presentation prior to
19 the end of the public comment period. If you've
20 not already done so, I encourage each of you to
21 go to DHEC's web page and complete the online
22 registration form for this hearing to ensure that
23 you're placed on our mailing list for the
24 proposed expansion. We will now move on to our
25 agenda and the order in which we will proceed for

1 this hearing. The presentation tonight will
2 begin with an overview of the draft SEIS and the
3 Corps' permitting process by Shawn Boone
4 immediately followed by an overview of the mine
5 operating permit application and DHEC's
6 permitting process by Jeremy Eddy. Following the
7 presentation, our tech host, Lawra Boyce, will
8 give instructions on how you can make comments
9 tonight from your remote location. I will then
10 begin the public comment portion of randomly
11 calling on those of you who indicated during pre-
12 registration that you would like to make a
13 comment. If you have decided that you no longer
14 wish to speak when you are called on, you may
15 decline at that time. Once we have finished
16 hearing from the pre-registered speakers, those
17 who did not pre-register will be given an
18 opportunity to make their comments. After all
19 comments have been heard, I will make closing
20 remarks and this public hearing will be
21 adjourned. In order for everyone to have a fair
22 and equal opportunity to participate tonight and
23 to ensure we proceed in a timely and effective
24 manner, the following four guidelines have been
25 established. First, there will be no answers

1 given during our after a presentation or comment.
2 Second, your comment should not go over four
3 minutes. At the end of your allotted time, you
4 will hear the sound that you just heard a moment
5 ago to let you know that your time has ended. I
6 will interrupt to remind you if you do not
7 conclude your comments at that time. If you are
8 not able to complete your comment within the
9 allotted time, you may still submit them in
10 writing before the end of the public comment
11 period. Please keep in mind that final decisions
12 are not made based on a vote or how many people
13 say the same thing. Third, please be respectful
14 towards all who are presenting information or
15 making comments here tonight. You each have a
16 unique and valued perspective and no one comment
17 is considered more important than another. And
18 finally, fourth please do no interrupt or ask
19 other participants to respond during your
20 comments. Should any comments or actions begin
21 to distract from the purpose of this hearing, the
22 speaker may be placed on mute or removed from the
23 online platform. I will now call on Shawn Boone
24 with the Corps to begin our presentation. Shawn?
25 MR. BOONE: Thank you, Donna. Good evening and

1 welcome. I want to thank everyone for taking the
2 time to attend and participate in this evening's
3 public hearing to receive comments on the draft
4 supplemental EIS that has been prepared for the
5 proposed expansion of the Haile Gold Mine
6 project. My name is Shawn Boone and I am a
7 project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of
8 Engineers Charleston District. The Corps of
9 Engineers is reviewing Haile Gold Mine,
10 Incorporated's proposal for a modification to an
11 individual permit to place dredge or or fill
12 material into waters of the United States.
13 Additionally, South Carolina Department of Health
14 and Environmental Control is reviewing Haile's
15 application requesting to modify the mine permit.
16 For this reason, the South Carolina Department of
17 Health and Environmental Control, DHEC, has
18 participated in the preparation of the draft
19 supplemental environmental impact statement, the
20 draft SEIS, as a cooperating agency. Also, the
21 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is serving
22 as a cooperating agency and I'd like to thank
23 each of the cooperating agencies for their
24 contribution. Next slide please.

25 In January 2011, Haile Gold Mine submitted

1 an application to the Corps of Engineers for a
2 federal permit to construct and operate a gold
3 mine near the city of Kershaw in Lancaster
4 County, South Carolina. A permit from the
5 Department of the Army was required before they
6 could undertake those activities effecting waters
7 of the United States. The Corps of Engineers
8 decision about whether to issue the requested
9 permit constitutes a federal action. For this
10 reason, our evaluation of the permit application
11 and, ultimately, our permit decision must comply
12 with the National Environmental Policy Act,
13 commonly known as NEPA. Similarly, a
14 modification to a permit constitutes a federal
15 action and must comply with NEPA. NEPA requires
16 the Corps of Engineers to identify the effects of
17 the proposed project on the human and natural
18 environment to evaluate a range of reasonable
19 alternatives to the proposed project and,
20 importantly, to disclose these findings in a
21 comprehensive document known as an environmental
22 impact statement. The EIS is often referred to
23 as such, as an EIS. In the case of -- of a
24 proposed substantial modification to a federal
25 action that warranted an EIS, a supplemental EIS

1 must be prepared to document any additional
2 impacts of the proposal. A final EIS was
3 published in July of 2014 and decision was made
4 to grant a permit with conditions. Now, we are
5 supplementing the 2014 EIS. The purpose of
6 tonight's public hearing is to listen to your
7 input. Your comments will be recorded by a court
8 reporter exactly as you state them, and those
9 comments will become part of the official
10 administrative record considered in the
11 preparation of the EIS and, ultimately, the
12 record of decision for Haile's application. The
13 benefits of the project must be carefully weighed
14 against the detriments of the project and the
15 final decision whether to issue the permit and
16 modify it will be determined by the outcome of
17 this balancing process. The Corps is ultimately
18 responsible for the content of the SEIS and we
19 direct a third party contractor, in this case,
20 ICF International, to assimilate the data and
21 prepare the document. However, while ICF is
22 wholly and fully accountable to the Corps of
23 Engineers alone, they're paid for Haile Gold Mine
24 Incorporated. Please keep in mind, the Corps is
25 not proposing to construct this project. We are

1 a federal permitting agency only. We are neither
2 for nor against this project. We are neutral
3 administrators of the law. If you haven't
4 already visited, there's a website dedicated to
5 sharing information about the Corps's efforts.
6 The project website is located at
7 www.hailegoldmineseis.com. From this website,
8 you have the opportunity to download project
9 documents, communicate directly with the project
10 team, or obtain the address where you can send
11 any information to me that you feel is important
12 for us to consider. Your input and participation
13 are essential to this process. As we progress
14 through the SEIS process, additional project
15 information will be added to the project website.
16 Also, historical information, such as the 2014
17 environmental impact statement can be found
18 there. The site also contains an opportunity to
19 provide written comments if you don't desire to
20 speak this evening.

21 In general, the Corps' regulatory program
22 regulates impact to our nation's waters,
23 including streams and wetlands. Our mission is
24 to protect the nation's aquatic resources by
25 allowing reasonable development through fair,

1 flexible, and balanced permit decisions. The
2 Corps' jurisdiction to issue or deny a permit for
3 this project is pursuant to the Clean Water Act.
4 Specifically, section 404 of the Clean Water Act
5 authorizes the Corps to issue or deny permits for
6 discharges of fill material into waters of the
7 United States, including streams and wetlands
8 like those proposed in this modification
9 application. Our decision to either issue or
10 deny this proposal is based on several things.
11 One in particular is a set of guidelines that
12 were established under the authority of section
13 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, our
14 decision will be based on what we call the public
15 interest review, which is an evaluation of the
16 impacts that a project may have on a public
17 interest. There are 21 public interest factors
18 that must be carefully considered. Some of these
19 factors are economics, fish and wildlife values,
20 land use, safety, and aesthetics. As I
21 indicated, the Corps determines that -- the Corps
22 determined that an EIS should be prepared for
23 this project and began this process in July of
24 2011. The supplement to the EIS is being
25 prepared in two stages, the draft SEIS and a

1 final SEIS. The draft SEIS has been made
2 available to the public and the public currently
3 as the opportunity to review and comment on the
4 draft supplement. Comments on the draft's
5 supplemental EIS will then be incorporated into
6 the final. Ultimately, when the Corps is
7 prepared to make a final decision on the permit
8 modification, we will prepare a document --
9 document called a Record of Decision. Certainly,
10 the SEIS attempts to document the impact from the
11 proposed project and contains all of the
12 information and analysis that the district
13 engineer will -- engineer will use in reaching a
14 permit decision. But the Record of Decision will
15 serve as the district engineer's decision on the
16 application itself. The district engineer's
17 decision must be one of three outcomes. Modify
18 the issued permit for the project as proposed by
19 Haile Gold Mine Incorporated or deny the
20 modification or issue the modified permit with
21 special conditions. I recognize that the NEPA
22 process and all of the Corps regulations may not
23 be familiar to you but please keep in mind that
24 this is meant to be a public process and as such,
25 your participation in the form of comments is not

1 only welcome, it is essential. The presentation
2 that will follow my statement will provide an
3 overview of the proposed mine modification.
4 Please feel free to comment on any and all
5 aspects of the gold mine project. Your comments
6 will help us as we refine the supplemental EIS
7 and, in turn, will maximize the effects of your
8 participation in this process.

9 Next slide. Again, I'd like to thank
10 everyone for -- for providing their input this
11 evening and for your patience during the hearing.
12 If you have more specific concerns that you feel
13 did get not addressed here tonight, please make
14 sure that you use -- utilize our website
15 hailegoldmineseis.com or provide us comments via
16 email or the United States Postal Service mail.
17 I'll be receiving comments until April 23, 2021,
18 as part of this open comment period for the draft
19 supplemental EIS. Thank you.

20 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Shawn. Okay, in case everyone
21 has not noticed before now, we are going to make
22 sure when you leave here tonight that you have
23 our email addresses and our web pages for more
24 information. So we will be repeating those
25 several times. I'll now call on Jeremy Eddy for

1 an overview of the mine operating permit
2 application that DHEC has received. Jeremy?
3 MR. EDDY: Thank you, Donna. Good evening, ladies and
4 gentlemen, and thank you for your interest in the
5 Haile Gold Mine Proposed Mod 19-2 Modification.
6 My name is Jeremy Eddy and I'm the project
7 manager and inspector for Haile Gold Mine mine
8 operating permit. DHEC received this application
9 package in June 2019 and continues to perform the
10 technical review of the application materials to
11 date. Within the application package, Haile Gold
12 Mine has submitted the MR1300 application form,
13 modification details, an alternative analysis, a
14 monitoring and management plan, and a reclamation
15 plan among other documents. All of these
16 documents are available for download and review
17 at our DHEC Haile Gold Mine web page. Each slide
18 of my presentation will point you to additional
19 information on that topic. In addition to our
20 modification review process, DHEC has also been a
21 cooperating agency with the U.S. Army Corps of
22 Engineers and the EPA to help draft the
23 supplemental environmental impact statement,
24 which as Shawn just mentioned, is available for
25 review on the Corps' website.

1 We're now on the next slide. This
2 modification requests to expand the permit
3 boundary, expand pit areas, perform underground
4 operations, optimize mill operations, increase
5 the tailing storage facility, potential acid
6 generating storage area, and overburden storage
7 areas, and expand the water treatment plants.
8 This is a complex site with many moving parts.
9 As such, we will quickly look at each of these
10 requests in the following slide.

11 We're now on slide 12. Haile Gold Mine is
12 requesting to add, approximately, 832 acres to
13 the current permit boundary and re-designate
14 current acreages. The current permit boundary is
15 shown on this map in green. The additional
16 parcels that will be added are shaded in blue.
17 This modification, if approved, will increase the
18 affected bonded area by, approximately, 1107
19 acres and decrease the buffer, or unaffected
20 area, by, approximately, 275 acres.

21 We are now on slide 13. Giving the general
22 trend of increasing prices in gold on the global
23 market, additional areas that were previously
24 uneconomical to mine, now have economic value.
25 Haile Gold Mine is requesting to expand their

1 current pits in order to process this material.
2 The map shows the currently approved pit location
3 in orange. The pink outline shows the proposed
4 pit extent, while the areas shaded in blue
5 represent the proposed expansion. As you can
6 see, Haile Gold Mine has requested to expand
7 Snake Pit, where my cursor is now, Ledbetter Pit,
8 and Mill Zone Pit. In the case of Champion Pit
9 to the west, the current application proposes a
10 decrease in overall area. Upon final
11 reclamation, these pits will become fresh water
12 ponds.

13 We're now on slide 14. While
14 underground mining has been performed on this
15 site historically since South Carolina begin
16 permitting mining operations in 1975, this will
17 be the first permitted underground mine, if
18 approved. The portal entrance will be located
19 within Snake Pit and extend a total of 1314 feet
20 below ground surface. Underground mining
21 operations will remain entirely within the permit
22 boundaries, meaning that the operator will not be
23 mining underneath anyone else's land or homes.
24 The operator has proposed to dig at the access
25 tunnel down to the bottom level and work their

1 way back towards the surface. Underground
2 blasting is likely to occur daily during shift
3 changes and is anticipated to be less intense
4 than the current surface blasting. The operator
5 has also proposed to use green, or non-acid
6 generating material to backfill in each level and
7 cement it in place. This will give the work area
8 structural stability and will not leave a large
9 void space. There is a short, three minute video
10 located on DHEC's Haile Gold Mine web page that
11 shows the manner and method the operator is
12 proposing to mine underground. We invite anyone
13 who wishes to learn more to watch it.

14 We are now on slide 15. Haile Gold Mine is
15 proposing to install additional plant equipment
16 that will allow them to maximize their production
17 efficiency. These plans include the installation
18 of an isomill, a pebble crusher, and a tower mill
19 that will allow the operation to crush the ore to
20 a finer grain size. These units are self-
21 contained and are not point sources of air
22 emissions. These will be in the already approved
23 plant area and are projected to increase their
24 production from 3.3 million tons a year to 5.1
25 million tons a year.

1 We are now on slide 16. Due to the increase
2 of processed material from the expansion of the
3 pit and underground mining operation, Haile Gold
4 Mine has proposed to increase their tailing
5 storage facility to accept the additional waste
6 material. They are proposing to use the same
7 material and methodology that were published in
8 the 2014 final environmental impact statement and
9 approved in the 2014 modification. This proposal
10 will add a fifth lift, which will increase the
11 height by 40 feet. This will increase the
12 storage capacity to 72 million tons.

13 We are now on slide 17. Haile Gold Mine has
14 proposed to expand their potentially acid
15 generating, or PAG cells by adding the west PAG,
16 which is shaded in green. They are proposing to
17 use the same materials and methodology that was
18 published in the 2014 SEIS and approved in the
19 2014 permit modification. Upon final
20 reclamation, these areas will be sloped, capped,
21 and vegetated.

22 We are now on slide 18. The operator, who
23 has also requested to expand their green, or non-
24 acid generating storage areas, by adding the
25 south OSA shaded in blue. They are proposing to

1 use the same materials and methodology that was
2 published in the 2014 final EIS and approved in
3 the 2014 permit modification. Upon final
4 reclamation, these areas will be sloped and
5 vegetated.

6 We are now on slide 19. The operator is
7 requesting to expand the current facility from
8 7800 square feet to 15,000 square feet, still
9 within the process plant area. This will allow
10 them to treat up to 2,000 gallons of contact
11 water per minute. This process plant will
12 continue to treat only contact water from the pit
13 underground operation and PAG cells. Any water
14 from the process plant will continue to be
15 discharged only into the tailing storage facility
16 and recycled back to the plant in a closed loop
17 system.

18 We are now on slide 20. Haile Gold Mine is
19 proposing to increase their total financial
20 assurance for reclamation from, approximately 67
21 and a half million dollars to \$80,891,000 by
22 2032. This increase will be made incrementally
23 each year over the course of operation, as shown
24 in this graph. This figure and the decreases
25 after 2032, are contingent on successful

1 concurrent reclamation. If concurrent
2 reclamation is not achieved, the financial
3 assurance may be higher. The 10 million dollar
4 trust agreement will remain unchanged. This
5 concludes my presentation of the Haile Gold Mine
6 modification application. Back to you, Donna.

7 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Jeremy. I'll remind everyone
8 that the presentation that you just saw is
9 available on DHEC's web page and a recording of
10 this public hearing, along with Jeremy's verbal
11 comments and Shawn's verbal comments, will be
12 posted following the hearing in the next couple
13 of days.

14 As we transition into the comment portion of
15 this public hearing, I would like to reiterate
16 that representatives of DHEC and the Corps are
17 here tonight to listen to your comments and any
18 concerns you may have about the proposed
19 expansion. Answers or responses to questions
20 will not be permitted. Before we begin hearing
21 comments from those of you who indicated during
22 pre-registration that you would like to speak, I
23 will ask our tech host to give instructions now
24 on how to make your comment from your remote
25 location. Lawra?

1 MS. BOYCE: Yes, thanks, Donna. We did have about six
2 people who indicated that they would like to make
3 an oral comment in their registration. I will
4 remind to please unmute your line when your name
5 is called so that we can hear you speak your oral
6 comment. You can do that by clicking on the
7 microphone on your screen or, if you're joining
8 by phone, you can press *6 to unmute. If you're
9 using a phone that has a mute button, it may not
10 work. We will need you to press *6 to unmute
11 into the system. Again, once Donna calls your
12 name, unmute your line by clicking the microphone
13 on your screen or, if you're joining us by phone,
14 press *6.

15 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Lawra. Looks like the first
16 commenter we have is actually a couple that have
17 registered, Angel and Lewis Estridge. If one of
18 you would like to comment now, I would ask you to
19 please remember to state and spell your name for
20 the court reporter before you begin speaking.

21 ANGEL ESTRIDGE: Yes, Ms. Angel Estridge, A-n-g-e-l
22 Estridge, E-S-T-R-I-D-G-E and Lewis, L-e-w-i-s,
23 Estridge is my father. I have concerns. We live
24 less than a mile away from the TSF, the tailing -
25 - the storage facility. The storage -- the big

1 vats that they keep all the cyanide and that
2 being so close to our home and especially with
3 them wanting to increase the storage to 72
4 million tons is a huge concern. I've read a lot
5 of environmental violations that Haile Gold Mine
6 has had and that also adds to the concern and the
7 -- the fear that we have because we live so close
8 and we do live on Essex Avenue. That's another
9 thing that I noticed in the -- in the detailed
10 project description on stage D. It said that
11 there will be a realign of portions of Essex
12 Avenue. Also concerned about the storage
13 facility is that how are we to trust that it will
14 not seep into the ground and affect our well
15 water? The creek water since we're right in
16 front of Buffalo Creek. It runs behind our
17 houses and how's expansion going to affect our
18 property value? And also the noise ordinances,
19 if they follow any noise ordinances. There are
20 quite a few nights I have not been able to sleep.
21 There are a lot of loud trucks, with the things
22 that they do sometime. I'm not sure exactly what
23 they're doing at times but it seems like they're
24 doing some work with the expansion of that
25 tailing storage. And that is hard to sleep at

1 night with that so I'm not understanding why they
2 allow that to happen so many times all night long
3 and not stop at a normal time like at 9:00
4 o'clock at night so people can sleep. Also, with
5 the reclamation process, I know that that's --
6 that's going to be way into the future but how is
7 that going to -- and that far ahead into the
8 future, how doe we know that those -- those
9 chemicals, the cynide are not going to be seeping
10 into the ground and how is that going to affect
11 the wildlife. We're on land that has been owned
12 by our family for over a hundred years out here
13 in this area and we were here first, and it's
14 really -- it's aggravating to have all of this
15 kind of up -- upset your -- your peace of living
16 when it comes so close to where you are and, you
17 know, and you're so settled with land and stream.
18 It's just -- it's just very unnerving but I guess
19 that's -- that's all of my comments. Thank you.

20 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Estridge. Would your
21 husband also like to comment this evening or are
22 you covering both of you?

23 ANGEL ESTRIDGE: I'm covering both us and that is my
24 father. We both live on Essex Avenue.

25 MS. MOYE: Okay. I'm sorry. Thank you so much.

1 ANGEL ESTRIDGE: Thank you.

2 MS. MOYE: Next we have Danny Terry. Again, I'll ask
3 you to please state and spell your name for the
4 court reporter before beginning your comments,
5 Mr. Terry. Again, we had a pre-registered
6 speaker by the name of Danny Terry. It doesn't
7 look like Mr. Terry is with us so we will skip
8 him right now and come back to him at the end of
9 the pre-registered speakers. Next it looks like
10 he have Joey Byrd. Mr. Byrd, again, I would ask
11 you before you begin your comments to please
12 state and spell your name for the court reporter.

13 JOEY BYRD: Yes, I'm Joey Byrd. J-o-e-y B-y-r-d. Not
14 only am I an employee of Haile Gold Mine but I'm
15 also a local private landowner, homeowner, about
16 10 or 11 miles from the mine site. I've been
17 here most of my life and I just wanted to say
18 that I fully support this proposed expansion.
19 Haile Gold Mine has had a tremendous positive
20 impact on a lot of lives, a lot of people in the
21 Kershaw area, Lancaster County, and beyond. So
22 it has my full support. I work there and I just
23 know the disciplines that this company backs so I
24 fully support it. And that's the comment I have.

25 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Byrd. It looks like next

1 we have Elaine Cooper and then after Ms. Cooper,
2 we have Pamela Greenlaw. So, Ms. Cooper, if
3 you're with us, if you will unmute your line and
4 state and spell your name for the court reporter
5 before you begin your comment.

6 ELAINE COOPER: Okay. Elaine, E-l-a-I-n-e, Cooper, C
7 as in Cheryl, o-o-p-e-r. Okay. So I'm going to
8 go ahead and speak, if that's all right with you.

9 MS. MOYE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you so much.

10 ELAINE COOPER: Okay. I object to the extension --
11 the expansion of -- of this Haile Gold Mine.
12 They are not good community partners. A good
13 community partner would have not have broken a
14 federal waste water law twice since late 2020. A
15 good community partner would not have been fined
16 by DHEC operation for nearly \$128,000 for
17 violating environmental rules that are intended
18 to protect the air and the water. A good
19 community partner, which is not Haile Gold Mine,
20 would not have the problems that it has been
21 having, especially the discharges in November and
22 December. In one case, the waste water for the
23 mining area was so toxic that it killed every
24 single water bug in it's tent, and that it was
25 decreed 100 percent mortality. That's not a good

1 community partner. And in another case the
2 company released more cyanide than is allowed in
3 its discharge permit. The company discharged 9.2
4 micrograms per liter of cyanide in December 2020,
5 but the monthly limit is only 5.2 micrograms per
6 liter. And to remind people, cyanide, used to
7 separate gold from ore, can cause convulsions,
8 respiratory failure, loss of consciousness, and
9 death for people who are exposed to high amounts,
10 let alone what animals and other wildlife that
11 are exposed to it. No, Haile Gold Mine is not a
12 good community partner. The agency also said in
13 September -- the DHEC agency that it fined the
14 mine for \$11,200, after finding excessive water
15 levels of thallium, a toxic material is based in
16 rat poison. Three months later, DHEC said it had
17 found a -- fined the Kershaw Mineral Lab more
18 than \$16,000 for 19 environmental violations,
19 including the hazardous waste. Then in February,
20 DHEC said it had fined the mine \$100,000 for
21 breaking air pollution rules before 2021. Okay,
22 and then it went on to mercury was found. It's a
23 toxic metal that has contaminated fish across
24 South Carolina. The mine -- the agency said the
25 mine exceeded the safe limit for mercury in the

1 air then failed to tell the agency -- failed to
2 tell DHEC as required. No, the gold mine has not
3 been a good community partner. And I will recall
4 that I came out to that church at the very
5 initial meeting with the community and I talked
6 to the -- to the people at the back of the church
7 and then the microphone was ripped out of my hand
8 because I asked what the local people had -- who
9 were at the back of the church what they thought.
10 And then people rushed after my car after I was
11 leaving, trying to stop me from leaving the
12 parking lot and said Ms., do you think that this
13 is going to contaminate the environment. Do you
14 think it will affect our air and water and land?
15 Yes. Yes, I said it would be and yes, now
16 property values will be worthless. No, some
17 people in the area have sold their heart, their -
18 - their land, their decency for the almighty
19 dollar. No, Haile Gold Mine is not a good
20 community partner. Thank you.

21 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Cooper. I also was at that
22 -- that last public hearing and it's good to see
23 someone who is still engaged in this process. So
24 thank you for being with us tonight. Next we
25 have Pamela Greenlaw. Ms. Greenlaw, if you would

1 unmute your line and please remember to state and
2 spell your name for the court reporter before you
3 begin speaking.

4 PAMELA GREENLAW: Yes, ma'am. Can you hear me?

5 MS. MOYE: Yes, ma'am, I can. Thank you so much.

6 PAMELA GREENLAW: Yes, ma'am. My name is Pamela
7 Greenlaw. P-a-m-e-l-a Greenlaw, G-r-e-e-n-l-a-w.
8 I also attended that meeting when Haile Gold
9 Mine, or when -- I guess it was Remarco Minerals
10 came to -- to open the mine and was very
11 concerned about the predictions that they were to
12 do things in such a manner that they -- there --
13 we would hardly know that they were there. And I
14 have two issues I'd like to bring up. One of
15 them is actually less about the mine than it is
16 about the NEPA process. NEPA was not intended to
17 be a community comment period, in which, there's
18 no Q & A. That's -- that's not how NEPA was
19 designed to be. I know it's deteriorated into --
20 into this that we make comments and you make
21 careful note that we made comments. But actually
22 NEPA was to involve the community in actual
23 planning, putting them in during the planning,
24 having discussions along the way. But the mining
25 industry doesn't work that way and I'm sorry that

1 our government has decided to side with -- it's
2 not just the gold mine but other heavy,
3 international, industrial corporations. To
4 capitalize on what Ms. Cooper had said -- well,
5 let me finish this about NEPA. I would suggest
6 that there be no action alternative until NEPA is
7 properly followed. To pit a community of people,
8 such as Ms. Cooper and Ms. Boyce, who want to see
9 water saved and the environment protected against
10 a good man -- I'm sure Mr. Byrd, Joey Byrd, as an
11 employee of the mine appreciates the jobs that
12 have been brought there. But to pit these two
13 groups against one another is not the NEPA way.
14 I went back and looked at a little bit of history
15 about Oceana Gold and what to expect in the
16 future. They behave only as government agencies
17 force them to. It goes back to what Ms. Cooper
18 was saying. Those fines from DHEC were slaps on
19 the wrist. Not even slaps. They were pokes.
20 Because Haile Gold Mine does not pay attention to
21 anything except economic pain. In fact, in 2013,
22 Oceana bailed out the mining company called
23 Pacific Rim and, at the time they were bailing
24 them out, Pacific Rim were trying to force the
25 country of El Salvador, an entire nation, to

1 permit them to come in and mine. And so Pacific
2 Rim sued the nation. When Oceana Gold purchased
3 Pacific Rim, that suit was before the World Banks
4 International Subcenter for -- Settlement of
5 International Disputes. Oceana Gold didn't say
6 no, we -- we don't need to be suing a poverty
7 stricken nation who's government refused to grant
8 a permit because of non-fulfillment of regulatory
9 requirements. No, they jumped right in full
10 speed ahead and decided that yes, profit is
11 always better than taking care of people. To
12 predict that sloping and revegetating are true
13 mitigation without excavation and isolation of
14 whatever materials are in the pits and the ponds,
15 that's band-aid material. Yes, it looks strong
16 now. What's it going look like in 50 -- 50 years
17 or more? I'm going to conclude by please, please
18 do not grant the permit as written. The previous
19 permit gave -- gives them lots of opportunity to
20 continue making a profit from their current set
21 up. Thank you very much.

22 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw. And as with Ms.
23 Cooper, we thank you for remaining engaged with
24 DHEC and with the Corps in this process from the
25 beginning. So I would like to take a moment to

1 see if Mr. Danny Terry has joined us. Mr. Terry
2 was a pre-registered speaker. Okay, please let
3 the record reflect that Mr. Terry was called on
4 to make a comment. That concludes everyone who
5 pre-registered to make a comment. We will now
6 begin hearing from those of you who did not pre-
7 register to speak but have decided to make a
8 comment. You will be called upon in random
9 order. I would like to ask our tech host, Lawra
10 Boyce, to give instructions again on how to make
11 your comments from your remote location. Lawra?

12 MS. BOYCE: Yes, thanks, Donna. As Donna noted, it is
13 so important that we hear from you in the time we
14 have tonight. So to let us know that you would
15 like to make a comment, please unmute your line
16 by clicking that microphone icon on your screen
17 or, if you're joining by phone, by pressing *6.
18 That will allow our tech team to know that you
19 would like to speak and we are noting down your
20 name and your phone number, and we will call on
21 you in a random order as Donna indicated. Once
22 you've unmuted, please refrain from speaking
23 until you are called on, either by your name or
24 the last four digits of your phone number. If we
25 experience a lot of background noise, we may need

1 to mute the lines. When it is your turn to
2 speak, please clearly state and spell your name.
3 Our tech team is noting the lines that are being
4 unmuted right now. We appreciate you unmuted.
5 If you -- if, for some reason, you are
6 experiencing some difficulty with muting or
7 unmuted your line, we encourage you to submit
8 your comments via email or mail to the addresses
9 that have been provided. Those addresses are on
10 our web page. They're also in the public notice.
11 And they're also posted on the screen here.
12 Giving a few more seconds for our tech team to
13 note any names and numbers of those who would
14 like to speak, and we will begin calling on those
15 names and numbers in random order.

16 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Lawra. Ms. Greenlaw, we -- we
17 do see that you have unmuted your line to speak
18 again. If you don't mind, we would like to -- to
19 pause for just a moment and allow anyone who has
20 not had the opportunity to comment yet, the
21 ability to do so, and we will come back to you.
22 I do have a number that ends in 38, looks like,
23 92, who has indicated that they would like to
24 speak. If you would like to begin now by stating
25 and spelling your name for the court reporter,

1 you can begin with your comment.

2 RHONDA FRANZ: Okay, I think that's me. 3892.

3 MS. MOYE: We're going to say it is. That sounds
4 right if you will just go ahead. We're happy to
5 hear from you.

6 RHONDA FRANZA: Okay. My name is Rhonda, R-h-o-n-d-a,
7 Franz, F-r-a-n-z, and I am opposed to the
8 expansion of the gold mine. I feel like it's
9 really bad for the environment. There's nothing
10 -- there's no amount of money that can ever
11 replace all of the destruction that they have
12 created in Kershaw and really in other areas of
13 the world too. It's not just Kershaw that's been
14 affected by this stuff. Just for a few grains of
15 gold so they can make more money. They have
16 plenty of money. You know, they don't any more
17 money. They don't need to dig down in our tiny
18 little town and just take it over. They're -- as
19 the lady said, they are not good community
20 partners. They do not care about Kershaw. They
21 don't care about the area. All they care about
22 is digging down in the ground and getting -- and
23 they don't even need this stuff. They have
24 billions of dollars. Billions. And Oceana Gold,
25 they don't even live here. They're from

1 Australia. So, yeah, I'm definitely against the
2 expansion. I think it's really been bad. I
3 don't think they've done anything for Kershaw
4 except, pretty much, destroy it. They're --
5 they're sending all their money to Lancaster
6 County. I just feel like it would just be
7 better, you know, to find other things that we
8 can do that don't involve destroying the world
9 that we live in and our children, our
10 grandchildren, all the future generations they're
11 going to see a big pit out there where once there
12 was beauty. So thank you very much.

13 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Franz. It looks like Chuck
14 Sanders has unmuted and he would like to make a
15 comment. Mr. Sanders, if you would begin, again,
16 by stating and spelling your name for the court
17 reporter, you can go ahead with your comment.

18 CHUCK SANDERS: Yes, ma'am. My name is Chuck Sanders,
19 C-h-u-c-k, Sanders, S-a-n-d-e-r-s. And my
20 thoughts are very similar to other commenters. I
21 live two miles from the mine and we have two
22 creeks that -- on our property that are
23 unfortunately downstream from the mine. And
24 having read over the last couple of years the
25 different violations with mercury, cyanide, rat

1 poison, and so forth, I just wonder about the
2 long-term effects, not only for our land but for
3 my children and my grandchildren. And I'm
4 definitely opposed to any expansion of the mine
5 at this point. That's all.

6 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much, Mr. Sanders.

7 CHUCK SANDERS: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. MOYE: Ms. Greenlaw, we've still got on you on
9 hold, if you can just bear with us just a moment.
10 We want to make sure that everyone who has not
11 had the opportunity to comment has the ability to
12 do so. Again, please, unmute your line or raise
13 your hand if you're joining us online, that you
14 would like to make a comment now, and we will be
15 happy to call on you. We do have a tech team in
16 the background who is noting who is unmuting
17 their line so we encourage you to provide us with
18 your comments tonight if you're with us and you
19 have something that you would like to say. I
20 know we had a good sized crowd with us this
21 evening so, please, don't be shy. I want to make
22 sure that I give our tech team a minute to note
23 those who would like to make a comment. And it
24 looks like someone with the phone extension of
25 6359 has unmuted and would like make a comment.

1 You can go ahead now. Please remember to state
2 and spell your name for the court reporter before
3 you begin your comment.

4 ISAAC JOHNSON: Yes. My name is Isaac Johnson and I
5 reside at 105 Buckingham Boulevard in Sumter,
6 South Carolina, and I have property in Kershaw.
7 And I have numerous concerns as it relates to
8 this situation with the Haile Gold Mine. As
9 mentioned by Mrs. Cooper, and I don't want to
10 belabor the issue, she has already indicated the
11 concern as it relates to the environmental impact
12 statement. The fact that they have failed to be
13 good citizens as well as other documented
14 concerns that have taken place within Kershaw
15 County and within other countries where this gold
16 mine has functioned. I encourage you that you
17 inquire and do your due diligence as it relates
18 to this licensing process. Because other than
19 that, that is the only feedback the citizens of
20 Kershaw County -- and I consider myself one of
21 them -- have to make feedback. And then
22 additionally I have several relatives who reside
23 there in the close -- close proximity of the gold
24 mine. And they have experienced tremendous
25 health concerns that are relative to some of the

1 things that have been pointed out as it relates
2 to this cyanide and other conditions from the
3 possibility of having it ingested or being close
4 to it. And then most of this so far and the
5 impact on wildlife but we need to be concerned
6 about human life. And thank you so much for
7 allowing me to express several of my concerns.
8 Again, my name is Isaac Johnson, and I'm an owner
9 of property there in Kershaw County and I have
10 family who live there. Thank you so much.

11 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And if you could,
12 just confirm for us, I want to make sure that we
13 have your name spelled correctly. If you can
14 spell your --

15 ISAAC JOHNSON: Okay.

16 MS. MOYE: Yes, go ahead.

17 ISAAC JOHNSON: My name is Isaac Johnson. I-s-a-a-c
18 J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

19 MS. MOYE: Thank you so much.

20 ISAAC JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for allowing me
21 to -- to verbalize some of my concerns and
22 concerns that I talked to my neighbors who share
23 those same concerns to me. They're not out
24 there. They're not making the necessary contact
25 and several of my neighbors have told me that

1 they have not even -- they've not even received
2 any information regarding this process tonight.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. And I would like
5 to --

6 ISAAC JOHNSON: You're welcome.

7 MS. MOYE: I would like to remind you and everyone
8 else who is joining us tonight that if you have
9 questions or would like to discuss any aspects of
10 this project, we will be providing contact
11 information for DHEC as well as the Corps. It
12 should be there on your screen now. We would be
13 glad to -- to talk with you more after this
14 evening. By design, the public hearing is a
15 formal process and does not allow the time for
16 questions and answers and so we want to make sure
17 that you know that you know that we are available
18 after tonight to discuss any concerns that you
19 have. So thank you again. So if there's anyone
20 else who is joining us and had not had the
21 opportunity to comment prior to now, if you would
22 please unmute your line at this time or raise
23 your hand, we'll be happy to call on you. Okay.
24 We'll remind you that comments will be accepted
25 by the Corps and DHEC through April 23rd, and I

1 know that some of you may like to think a little
2 bit more about whether or not you would like to
3 give your comments tonight. So, Ms. Greenlaw, we
4 would like to jump back to you. I understand
5 that you would like continue your comments that
6 you began earlier.

7 PAMELA GREENLAW: Yes, thank you very much. I
8 understand the -- the terms that you -- that DHEC
9 uses, public -- public hearing verus public
10 meeting. And I -- I wasn't aware that you had
11 had a public meeting. I know you can't answer
12 whether or not you have right now. I imagine I
13 have to call tomorrow and find out if you've had
14 a public meeting because with Covid, I'm not sure
15 that it was even possible for you to have one. I
16 didn't see any kind of notification about one.
17 And that's a -- that's another problem which I
18 was trying to refer to earlier about NEPA, that
19 answering people's questions one-on-one actually
20 prevents other people from hearing different
21 kinds of questions and getting answers. I might
22 have a set of four questions that I -- I would
23 like answered. Someone else might have three.
24 They would be different and we -- we would each
25 learn something about our questions but not

1 about one another's. So I would urge DHEC and
2 the Army Corps, if you have not had a public
3 meeting, whether it is in person or whether it is
4 virtual, I would urge you to do that. If you had
5 one already and I'm just showing, you know,
6 showing my ignorance, I apologize. The other
7 thing that we were told earlier in this -- at the
8 beginning or during the presentation is that the
9 idea of balancing the benefits and the harms are
10 going to be the -- the way the decision is made.
11 And the public does not know what the criteria
12 are or the formula that might be used to weight
13 the benefits of -- versus the harms. Mr. Isaac
14 Jackson pointed out human life is invaluable and
15 we can't put a money value on human lives, and we
16 can't put a money value on water. You all know
17 this. This is not news but the only reason a
18 water treatment plant is needed is because the
19 current ecosystem services that are offered by
20 water and natural wetlands, which are free, they
21 would keep things clean and I think it's really
22 our job to ensure that just because an
23 application looks good that a company's history
24 must be taken into consideration. I don't know
25 if this is still a legislative issue in which the

1 state does not allow DHEC to be stricter, but if
2 there are regulations for DHEC to enforce and
3 DHEC will enforce, I hope that the fines will be
4 commensurate with the crimes. Thank you very
5 much and yes, we -- those of use who came to
6 those original hearings knew this was going to
7 happen. We also know that it will continue to
8 happen unless major changes are made. Thank you
9 very much.

10 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Greenlaw. And I will
11 reiterate that we do have contact information
12 that is on your screen. Please feel free to
13 reach out to DHEC or the Corps after this evening
14 if you would like to discuss specific aspects of
15 this project. I will mention a little bit later
16 on tonight that there's going to be a feedback
17 survey that will be on our web page, and if you
18 complete that, I believe there is a way that you
19 can leave your contact information for us to
20 contact you after tonight as well. So thank you
21 again for your comments. Okay, I do not see
22 where we've had anybody else unmute their line or
23 raise their hand to comment. I will encourage
24 you again to do that now. We're here tonight to
25 listen to you and we certainly want you to have

1 the opportunity to -- to tell us your comments in
2 person.

3 RHONDA FRANZ: Yes, I'd like to say something. My
4 name is Rhonda. I would like to say that the
5 water --

6 MS. MOYE: Ms. Franz -- Ms. Franz, hang on just a
7 second. I believe it's Rhonda Franz?

8 RHONDA FRANZ: Yeah.

9 MS. MOYE: Okay. I just remembered you from --

10 RHONDA FRANZ: (unreportable crosstalk)

11 MS. MOYE: -- earlier so I just wanted to make sure
12 that the court reporter knows who was speaking.
13 So please, go ahead.

14 RHONDA FRANZ: Yeah, I would like to comment about
15 what the people said about the water and people
16 and -- and the animals. Like the -- our
17 environment and our animals, they don't have a
18 voice. They have no one to speak for them. And
19 these people -- these people that are in charge
20 of this mine, they don't care about anything
21 except money. And I really hope that they will
22 not get -- I mean, they already have what they
23 want. Just don't let them have anything else.
24 They're a destructive company and they have a bad
25 record in other countries. Thank you.

1 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Franz. Okay, is there
2 anyone else who would like to make a comment
3 tonight? I see that, Ms. Cooper, you have your
4 hand raised again. Please go ahead with your
5 comment.

6 ELAINE COOPER: Okay. This is Elaine Cooper. I just
7 -- I just see that Sammy Fretwell is still on --
8 participating, which is awesome, and it has
9 occurred to me -- I remember when the folks
10 rushed out of the first meeting that I attended,
11 they talked about should they move, should they
12 sell, would the property amount to nothing, and
13 my heart goes out to Isaac Johnson, who has
14 property here. I really would like to do
15 research and I'll submit my comments before the
16 deadline to find out how many people have sold
17 their land or their property, even hearing about
18 that this gold mine was going to come into this
19 area, and then actually even witnessing what the
20 gold mine has done to the surrounding land and
21 environment. And then following the news about
22 the fines and, you know, federally and from DHEC,
23 and that just -- my heart just really goes out to
24 anyone who has lived, especially the person who's
25 property goes back 100 years. I can't imagine

1 the pain that this gold mine has caused. So I
2 know I'm speaking to whatever but I would really
3 appreciate that this would register and just say
4 that my heart goes out to all the people who's
5 land and property must amount to nothing right
6 now, if they're in the surrounding areas of the
7 gold mine. Thanks. I'll get back to you before
8 the deadline.

9 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Cooper. And that's a good
10 opportunity for me to once again remind everyone
11 that written comments will be accepted by the
12 Corps and DHEC through April 23, 2021. And it
13 looks like I have called on everyone who wished
14 to make a comment tonight. I'll give just a
15 moment more for anyone else who has decided that
16 they would like to make a comment during this
17 public hearing to unmute their line. Please let
18 the record reflect that there are no other
19 attendees who have indicated that they would like
20 to make a comment at this time. Since there are
21 no other attendees who would like to make a
22 comment, the comment portion of tonight's public
23 hearing is now concluded. On behalf of DHEC and
24 the Corps, I would like to thank everyone for
25 joining us tonight and giving us your comments.

1 Please note, once again, that written comments
2 may be submitted to both DHEC and the Corps by
3 mail or email through April 23, 2021. All
4 written comments received on or before this date
5 will be considered as they relate to final
6 decisions by DHEC and the Corps regarding the
7 proposed expansion. It is important to remember
8 that DHEC's final decision on the mine operating
9 permit application and the Corps's decision on
10 the draft SEIS are two distinct and separate
11 decisions. Updates on these decisions and
12 permitting processes will be posted on the
13 respective web pages. At this time, I would like
14 to provide some additional information regarding
15 DHEC's permitting process. The permit process at
16 DHEC begins when a company applies for one or
17 more environmental permits. During this process,
18 the company must show that it's proposed
19 operation can comply with state and federal
20 regulations. These regulations have been written
21 to ensure that human health and the environment
22 are protected. DHEC's role is to write and, if
23 issued, enforce permits that meet these
24 requirements. DHEC will review and consider all
25 comments received during this public comment

1 period and may request additional information
2 from Haile Gold Mine if necessary. A decision
3 will then be made to approve or deny a mine
4 operating permit. The permit decision and a
5 summary response to all written comments received
6 pertaining to the mine permit and DHEC's mine
7 permitting process will be provided to everyone
8 on our mailing list. You have the right to
9 request a final review of any permit decision
10 made by DHEC. The final review request must be
11 submitted in writing to DHEC's Clerk of the
12 Board, along with a filing fee in the amount
13 \$100, within 15 days after notice of DHEC's
14 permit decision has been mailed. In
15 consideration of this requirement, you will
16 receive notification of DHEC's permit decision by
17 standard U.S. mail or by email. If you wish to
18 be notified of DHEC's decision by certified mail
19 instead, please make your request in writing no
20 later than April 23, 2021. Finally, as I
21 mentioned earlier, there is a link on DHEC's web
22 page to a public hearing survey. We encourage
23 you to reach out to us with any questions that
24 you have prior to the end of the comment period.
25 We also interested in knowing your thoughts and

1 suggestions about tonight's virtual public
2 hearing and how DHEC can improve the way we
3 communicate and share information with you.
4 Please take a moment to share your feedback
5 within the next couple of days. On behalf of
6 DHEC and the Corps, I would again like to thank
7 you for your attendance and comments this
8 evening. As the state's public health agency,
9 DHEC encourages you to remember that safe
10 effective vaccines, social distancing, and mask
11 wearing are how we will win the fight against
12 Covid-19. Please continue to protect yourself
13 and others by getting a vaccine when it is your
14 turn. The time is now 7:44 p.m., and this
15 hearing is officially adjourned. You may
16 disconnect at this time. Good night.

17 (There being nothing further, the
18 statement concluded at 7:44 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KATHRYN BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT LARGE, HEREBY
CERTIFY THAT I REPORTED THIS MEETING ON THURSDAY THE 1ST
DAY OF APRIL, 2021, THAT THE FOREGOING 51 PAGES CONSTITUTE
A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPTION OF MY STENOMASK REPORT OF
SAID DEPOSITION.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER ATTORNEY NOR
COUNSEL FOR, NOR RELATED TO OR EMPLOYED BY ANY OF THE
PARTIES CONNECTED WITH THIS ACTION, NOR AM I FINANCIALLY
INTERESTED IN SAID CAUSE.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL OF SAID TRANSCRIPT
WAS THEREAFTER SEALED BY ME AND DELIVERED TO SC DHEC, 2600
BULL STREET, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO WILL RETAIN THIS
SEALED ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
FILING SAME WITH THE COURT PRIOR TO TRIAL OR ANY HEARING
WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A FINAL ORDER ON ANY ISSUE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE SET MY HAND AND SEAL THIS
7TH DAY OF MAY, 2021.



KATHRYN B. BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 28, 2022

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