

November 30, 2016

Mr. Joe Koon
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Koon and Staff:

As President of the Ridge Protection Coalition, a resident of the Batesburg-Leesville area, a resident of Lexington County, and a proud resident of the great state of South Carolina, I would like to respectfully request that all permits requested by Vulcan Materials to operate a granite rock crushing quarry in our area be denied. If this denial is not possible, I would like to request that all decisions be postponed for at least ninety days in order for additional research to be conducted.

Based on information in the draft mining permit, many of the concerns raised to DHEC have not been sufficiently addressed. It appears that information concerning radon, earthquake fault lines, water, air and archeological questions have been addressed by firms hired by Vulcan Materials. I do not see any information that has come from any independent consultants nor do I see any research and/or data on file that has been conducted by any of these firms. How can our experts review these decisions when they don't have the copies of this research and/or data to study?

John and Suzannah Hite Black, owners of the proposed quarry site during the 1800's, were my great-great-grandparents. They lay buried on this property along with several other family members. Their graves are covered by a heavy concrete slab. There is another cemetery located on this property also. There are at least ten grave sites marked only by fieldstones. We believe these to be grave sites of enslaved persons. All of these graves need to be preserved and protected from any and all effects of mining activities. Both the archeological report and DHEC refer to "one cemetery". These are two distinct and separate cemeteries and should be recognized as such.

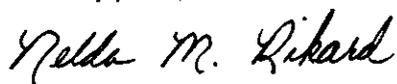
There are archeological sites on this property that are not listed in the archeological study. We know of these sites through family knowledge which has been passed from generation to generation. However, we have been denied access to the property, except for the cemetery, to try to get pictures of these sites before they are destroyed. I believe that an additional more thorough archeological study should be conducted before any permits are considered. There are many burial sites of Native Americans on this property also. Certain areas on the property were not farmed due to these burial sites. Are all of

these historical sites going to be lost forever? Are the burial sites of these Native Americans going to be desecrated?

According to information mailed to the United States Army Corps of Engineers from Synterra on August 31, 2015, Little Creek, which flows through the proposed quarry site, is listed as "Traditionally Navigable Water". This is indicated on page 2 of the cover letter (copy enclosed). Also on the Jurisdictional Determination Request form, it is indicated on Table 1 (copy enclosed). Little Creek (segment 1, 2 &3) is listed on Table 1 as TNW (Traditionally Navigable Water). If this is true, does this not give the public the right to freely use the creek under the provisions of the South Carolina Water Law? The above questions are based on my research as I do not profess to have legal training only a lay person's research.

Based on the amount of unanswered questions and concerns, I would again respectfully request at least a delay in any decisions made by DHEC until further investigations are conducted.. I truly believe that if we cannot adequately fund resources to oversee these operations which could be a detriment to our citizens, then we should not grant permits for them to operate, I appreciate your time and efforts on behalf of the citizens of our community, county and state.

Sincerely yours,



Nelda M. Rikard, President
Ridge Protection Coalition and Concerned Citizen

Enclosures-2

Cc: The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor ✓
The Honorable Henry McMaster, Lt. Governor
The Honorable Joe Wilson, Congressman
The Honorable Tim Scott, Senator
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Senator
The Honorable James Clyburn, Congressman
The Honorable Shane Massey, Senator
The Honorable Katrina Shealy, Senator
The Honorable Ronnie Cromer, Senator
The Honorable Cal Forrest, Representative
Catherine Heigel, Director DHEC
Joan Litton, DHEC
Bob Guild

taken in 2006, prior to logging activities. Logging activities were active during the 2012 wetland delineation activities. The former Wild Rose Tract on the south side of the property has not been logged. In general, the gradient of the property northwest of Windmill Road slopes to the east toward the Traditionally Navigable Water (TNW) of Little Creek. The northeastern section of the property slopes to the west. The entire site drains into Little Creek. A Map of property boundaries (Figure 13) is based on the Lexington County Tax Map.

Soils

Soils on the Site were mapped by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and obtained from the Soil Survey of Lexington County, South Carolina (Figure 11). The Site is covered mainly by four soil types which could be subdivided further based on the surface slope. Appling sandy loam covers approximately 80 percent of the Site. This soil is formed from weathered granite and typically does not have restrictive layers within the top 80 inches of soil. Appling sandy loam soils are considered well drained soils and do not typically flood or pond.

The second most common soil mapped was Fuquay loamy sand which covers approximately ten percent of the site. This soil is formed from weathered granite and typically contains restrictive layers in the top 80 inches. These soils are also considered well drained soils. This soil was found at the eastern side of the site.

An area of Troup sand was mapped around six percent within a hill area located on Tract C. The Troup sand is located near the southwest corner of Tract C where a former peach orchard was located. Loblolly pine was planted in this area after the orchard was abandoned. This sandy soil was formed as a result of marine deposits and is considered excessively drained.

Chenneby, a silty clay loam, was mapped over three percent of the surface area along the floodplain of the perennial stream called Little Creek. This soil was formed as a result of alluvium deposition which has resulted in a finer textured soil that is considered somewhat poorly drained. Chenneby soils can be frequently flooded but do not generally pond. The water table may be as shallow as 12 inches but due to stream incision from past land practices the water table is likely been lowered in these areas.

Streams

A linear length of wetland is indicated on the National Wetland Inventory Map (Figure 12) as a freshwater forested/ shrub wetland. A depression that might have been used as a pond to collect water for irrigating the former peach orchard is shown on the west side of

Table 1
 Potential Jurisdictional Streams
 Vulcan Lexington Quarry

JURISDICTIONAL STREAMS			
STREAM ID	LENGTH (lf)	AREA (acres)	DESCRIPTION
STREAM A	1,907	0.415	SEASONAL RPW
LITTLE CREEK (SEGMENT 1)	4,016	1.032	TNW
LITTLE CREEK (SEGMENT 2)	777	0.218	TNW
LITTLE CREEK (SEGMENT 3)	361	0.108	TNW

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LITTLE CREEK (SEGMENT 3)	361	0.108	TNW
STREAM C (SEGMENT 1)	447	0.031	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM C (SEGMENT 2)	564	0.026	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM D (SEGMENT 1)	600	0.081	NON RPW
STREAM D (SEGMENT 2)	1,164	0.139	NON RPW
STREAM E	119	0.021	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM F	536	0.106	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM G	762	0.07	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM H	718	0.069	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM I	104	0.011	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM J	63	0.012	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM K	30	0.004	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM L	51	0.010	PERENNIAL RPW
STREAM M	558	0.052	PERENNIAL RPW
STREAM N	142	0.025	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM O	26	0.003	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM P	218	0.022	SEASONAL RPW
STREAM Q	60	0.005	SEASONAL RPW
TOTAL	13,223	2.46	

RPW = Relatively Permanent Water

 TNW = Traditionally Navigable Water