

State of South Carolina)
)
County of Richland)

In Re: PSD Construction)
Permit for Scout Motors,)
Inc., A Delaware)
Corporation - Blythewood)
Plant)

Transcript
of
Public Hearing

Date: October 12, 2023

Time: 6:01 p.m.

Location: Doko Manor, 100 Alvina Hagood Circle,
Blythewood, South Carolina.

Reported by
Miranda Brown

APPEARANCES

DHEC officials present: Monica Taylor, Hearing Officer
Amanda Cruley

Public Speakers: Charles Bayne
Roger Hovis

Also Present: Julie Taradash
Breanna Sharper

PROCEEDINGS

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HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Good evening. The time is now 6 p.m., on Thursday, October 12, 2023, and this is a hearing regarding the draft PSD Construction Permit for Scout Motors, Inc., A Delaware Corporation - Blythewood Plant, better known as "Scout Motors," is now called to order. For the record, this facility's proposed location is at 437 Blythewood Road in Blythewood, South Carolina.

My name is Monica Taylor. I will serve as the hearing officer tonight. On behalf of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, I welcome you and thank you for taking the time to come here tonight.

Before I go over how we will proceed, there are just a few items I would like to address. First, I would ask that you please silence your phones or any devices so you do not disturb this hearing. Secondly, please familiarize yourself with the exits in case of an emergency. And, third, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to sign the attendance sheet in the -- in the front of the building. We have asked that you sign in on your sheets to make sure that you can be notified for -- with future information regarding

1 the proposed facility.

2 I would also like to point out our court
3 reporters, who are sitting to the right of me.
4 They will record the comments that you make here
5 tonight and prepare a written transcript. The
6 transcript will serve as an official record of the
7 public hearing. If at some later time you are
8 interested in reviewing the transcript, it will be
9 posted on the DHEC Scout Motors web page.

10 The permitting process at DHEC begins when the
11 company applies for one or more environmental
12 permit. During -- during the process, the company
13 must show that -- that its proposed operation can
14 comply with state and federal regulations. These
15 regulations have been written to ensure that human
16 health and the environment are protected. DHEC's
17 role is to write, and, if issued, enforce permits
18 that meet these requirements.

19 You should know that a decision to grant or
20 deny the permit has not yet been made and will not
21 be made here tonight. The purpose of this hearing
22 is for you to provide comments to be considered
23 before a final decision is made. You also have a
24 role in DHEC's permitting process. That's what
25 brings us here tonight: to receive your comments

1 formally for our records. Your comments are an --
2 are important part of our permitting process. The
3 information you share will be reviewed and may
4 provide DHEC staff with additional things to
5 consider when making a final decision. Comments
6 and concerns given here tonight, as well as those
7 submitted in writing by the end of the public
8 comment period, are welcomed and encouraged. If you
9 choose not to speak tonight, you may submit a
10 written comment to DHEC by October 18th.

11 So that this hearing moves forward in an
12 efficient and timely manner, the following
13 guidelines have been established: There will be no
14 questions or answers during our comment period.
15 All comments will be made from the microphone up
16 front when you are called. So that everyone has an
17 opportunity to speak, the comments should be no
18 longer than five minutes; time may not be
19 transferred to other speakers. Our staff members
20 on the front row will remind you when you have one
21 minute and again when you have 30 seconds
22 remaining. If you are not able to present your
23 comments within the five minutes or do not wish to
24 speak at this public hearing, please remember that
25 you may submit a written comment to DHEC by October

1 18th, and they will be entered into the record just
2 as comments that are spoken here tonight.

3 Finally, we recognize that there are strong
4 emotions associated with this project. Each
5 person's input is important to us. I ask that you
6 be respectful of those presenting information or
7 making comments and follow the time limits that you
8 have been given. Asking the audience, DHEC staff,
9 or Scout Motors representative to respond to any
10 comments or questions is not appropriate for this
11 public hearing. You should also know that approval
12 or denial of the permit will not be based upon a
13 vote or how many people say the same thing here
14 tonight.

15 Should any comments or actions begin to move
16 away from the intent of this hearing, I may ask the
17 speaker to limit their statement and be seated.
18 While DHEC understands that there are various
19 concerns and -- focus of this hearing is on the
20 technical merit of the draft air permit.

21 This hearing will proceed in the following
22 order. First, Amanda Cruley will give a summary of
23 the draft permit. Secondly, I will randomly call
24 on those who have signed in to speak. If you have
25 not signed in and you do wish to speak, you could

1 be called upon when we have called upon all of the
2 signed-in speakers. If time permits, anyone who
3 has not originally signed in has that choice to
4 speak.

5 We'll go ahead and get started with the
6 reading of the summary of the project. Amanda.

7 MS. CRULEY: Scout Motors has applied to the Department
8 for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration, or
9 PSD, air construction permit to construct and
10 operate a new automobile stamping and assembly
11 plant. A preliminary determination draft
12 construction permit and draft statement of basis
13 have been written outlining this proposed project
14 and applicable regulations. In addition to other
15 state and federal air quality regulations, the
16 draft permit is subject to review under SC DHEC
17 Regulation 61-62.5, Standard Number 7, Prevention
18 of Significant Deterioration, or PSD.

19 The permit includes limitations and/or
20 requirements determined through a Best Available
21 Control Technology review for particulate matter,
22 particulate matter less than 10 microns,
23 particulate matter less than 2.5 microns, oxides of
24 nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, and
25 greenhouse gases. Additionally, the permit

1 includes a federally enforceable facility-wide
2 limit of less than 100 tons per year of carbon
3 monoxide, to not be a major source of carbon
4 monoxide under PSD review. Under these
5 regulations, a facility must demonstrate that its
6 proposed construction project will not
7 significantly deteriorate the air quality in its
8 region before a permit can be issued.

9 Air dispersion modeling has indicated that the
10 release of emissions from this facility will not
11 cause or contribute to an exceedance of the
12 National Ambient Air Quality Standards, or the
13 NAAQS. The maximum degrees of Class II PSD
14 increment consumption from cumulative impact
15 monitoring, including the proposed project, are
16 predicted to be 54 percent of the PM2.5 24-hour
17 standard and 30 percent of the annual standard.
18 The maximum degree of the Class II PSD NO2
19 increment consumption are -- is predicted to be 42
20 percent of the annual standard. There will be no
21 Class I Areas impacted and no degree of increment
22 consumption resulting from this proposed project.

23 The draft permit has not yet been approved and
24 is open to comment from the public, the US EPA, the
25 federal land managers, the chief executives of

1 Richland County, the City of Blythewood, and the
2 Central Midlands Regional Council of Government.

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you, Amanda.

4 We will now hear from those of you who
5 indicated that you wanted to leave a comment here
6 tonight. Please clearly state your name for the
7 court reporters. If you have a copy of your
8 comments with you, please leave them with -- please
9 leave them with us when you've finished speaking.

10 I'll first call Charles Bayne.

11 MR. BAYNE: Thank you. I don't know how to make this a
12 comment only. So if you want to tell me to sit
13 down, go ahead. Are you planning on putting air
14 quality monitoring devices near that plant? I know
15 we have one out at Sandhills somewhere. So if you
16 could -- I'll -- I'll write this down also. But
17 I'm interested in the -- the air quality coming out
18 of the plant, and I couldn't understand a lot she
19 said because I -- I just don't hear well. What --
20 and I -- and I want to know what chemicals are
21 going to be coming out of the plant in the form of,
22 I guess, smoke particulates. I'll write that down
23 for you.

24 And, lastly, do you have any control over
25 these guys burning these thousand piles of logs

1 they got out there? When they did it six months
2 ago, they choked us out, and those piles are still
3 sitting there. Nobody's made any effort to move
4 them off. That affects air quality. When I call
5 air quality about it, they say, "Well, we have
6 rules we follow, and those rules are the fire must
7 be at least 1,000 feet from the first nearest
8 house." That don't help the smoke blowing through
9 the air for 10 miles.

10 So those are my comments; I asked questions,
11 and I'll write them down for you. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Can you repeat your
13 name?

14 MR. BAYNE: Charles Bayne, B-a-y-n-e, 30-2-310(A)(1)(e)
15 ██████████, Blythewood.

16 HEARING OFFICER: I'll now call Roger Hovis. And please
17 state your name.

18 MR. HOVIS: Certainly. My name is Roger Hovis, resident
19 here, the Town of Blythewood. And I tried -- I
20 tried to go along with the table of contents you
21 guys had outlined. Let me -- the -- looks like
22 Paragraph 2-2-1 "Growth," the bottom line says,
23 "Therefore, the construction and modification of
24 the facility and any workforce associated,
25 residential and commercial growth is not expected

1 to cause or contribute to a quantifiable adverse
2 impact on local ambient air quality." My comment
3 is: I just wish how they arrived at that, that
4 there will be no quantifiable adverse impact on the
5 local air, if they could include that in the
6 permitting.

7 And also to kind of piggyback on Mr. Burns
8 (verbatim) -- Charles's comment about the adverse
9 effects a lot of folks in this area have been
10 enduring from the wood burning, which of course has
11 ceased now but -- and hopefully, it will not start
12 up again, is that that seems to me -- I've read
13 through the several thousand pages of the
14 permitting process to be addressed. Seems to me
15 that the permitting is for once the plant is up and
16 running. So what is there for us now to use as a
17 tool or to address the current construction that's
18 ongoing? Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. That concludes
20 everyone that signed up to make a comment. If
21 there's someone who has not signed and would like
22 to make a comment, please raise your hand at this
23 time. All right.

24 Again, please remember that there are still
25 options available to comment by written comments

1 directly to DHEC.

2 I will again just check to make sure that
3 there is not someone else who would like to make a
4 comment here tonight.

5 Okay. In closing, on behalf of DHEC, I would
6 like to thank everyone for coming here tonight and
7 giving your comments. Please note, once again,
8 written comments may be submitted to DHEC by
9 October 18th of 2023. All written comments
10 received on or before this time will be considered
11 in the decision-making process. If you have
12 questions about submitting written comments, please
13 see a DHEC staff member before you leave.

14 Following this public hearing and formal
15 comment period, DHEC will make a decision as to
16 whether the draft air permit will be approved,
17 disapproved, or modified. The decision will be
18 based upon the review and consideration of -- of
19 applicable state and federal air quality
20 regulations, comments made at this hearing tonight
21 in the form of a transcript, all other written
22 comments received within the required timeframe,
23 and any other permissible information.

24 Once a final permit decision is made, DHEC
25 will provide a response to all comments received

1 pertaining to the air permit.

2 DHEC's Guide for our Board Review is as
3 follows: We -- we will -- I'm sorry. We will be
4 provided in our Response to Comments that
5 information, a comment document, as well as in our
6 notification of the final permit decision. These
7 are the procedures that must be followed if you --
8 if a final review, otherwise known as an approval
9 is requested. My apologies. Let me reread that.
10 I'm sorry. I don't have on my glasses. The words
11 are running together here. There you go.

12 These are the procedures that must be followed
13 in a final review, otherwise as an appeal, is
14 requested after the DHEC permit decision is made.
15 You have the right to request a final review of any
16 permit decision made by DHEC. The final review
17 request must be submitted in writing to DHEC Clerk
18 of the Board, along with a filing fee in the amount
19 of \$100, within 15 days after the notice of DHEC
20 decision is made for this permit.

21 In consideration of these requirements, if you
22 indicate on the sign-in sheet that you want to
23 receive any future information about the Scout
24 Motor facility or if you have submitted comments
25 during the public comment period, you will receive

1 notification of DHEC's decision by standard U.S.
2 mail or by e-mail. If you wish to be notified of
3 DHEC's decision by certified mail, please see a
4 DHEC staff at the sign-in table before you leave.
5 If you choose to make any certified mail request in
6 writing, you are asked to do so by October 18th.

7 As part of our goal to provide helpful
8 information for future hearings and meetings, we
9 would like your feedback on how the public hearing
10 went using the brief survey provided at sign in.
11 We value this important information and look
12 forward to hearing from you.

13 On behalf of DHEC, I would again like to thank
14 you for your attendance and your comments here
15 tonight. The time is now 6:20 p.m., and the
16 hearing is officially adjourned. Thank you, and
17 good night.

18 (Whereupon, at 6:20 p.m., the
19 meeting of the above-entitled matter
20 was concluded)

21 (*This transcript may contain quoted material.
22 Such material is reproduced as read or quoted
23 by the speaker.)

24 (**Certificate accompanies sealed original
25 only.)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) CERTIFICATE
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON)

Be it known that Miranda Brown took the foregoing proceeding and hereby attests:

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 deponent/witness, if any, was first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, concerning the matter in the controversy aforesaid;

that the foregoing transcript represents a true, accurate, and complete transcription of the testimony so given 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;

that, if a recording of an event was supplied by another party for purposes of transcription and I was not present during that event, the foregoing pages were transcribed to the best of my skill and ability; additionally, any identifications of speakers were provided to me by the party supplying the recording;

that, in the event of a nonappearance by the witness, the foregoing details for the nonappearance are accurate.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature and title.



Miranda Brown

Date: 10/16/2023
Notary public for South Carolina
My commission expires January 20, 2033
*Unless otherwise noted, this notary public administered the oath. Please refer to the transcript for any exceptions.