



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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State Water Resources officials approve Vanceboro quarry withdrawal permit

RALEIGH – The N.C. Division of Water Resources issued a water withdrawal permit Friday to Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. for the removal of up to 12 million gallons of groundwater a day for the company's proposed mining operation in Beaufort County.

The permit is required because the quarry is in the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area, a 15-county region of eastern North Carolina created in 2002 to address the depletion and overuse of groundwater. This state program requires anyone withdrawing more than 100,000 gallons of groundwater per day to obtain a permit.

Martin Marietta will need to adhere to stringent requirements in order to stay in compliance with this permit. Compliance includes daily monitoring of water withdrawals, monthly monitoring of water levels and annual measurement and modeling of the area from which water is withdrawn.

The N.C. Division of Water Resources held a public hearing July 30 at Beaufort County Community College in Washington, N.C. Approximately 106 people attended the public hearing. Of those attendees, 28 people provided oral comments and five people provided written comments.

Based on the comments received at the public hearing and during the public comment period, the division has made certain changes to the water withdrawal permit. Changes include a specific timeline for Martin Marietta to follow up with groundwater well complaints in the area, as well as the submittal of a map of the zone of influence on an annual basis.

Persons concerned that their private drinking water wells will be affected may register their well on the division's website by going to: <http://www.ncwater.org/CCPCUA>. Documents related to the water withdrawal permitting process can be viewed on the same webpage.

Martin Marietta received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit in July from the N.C. Division of Water Resources to address a proposed discharge of stormwater and groundwater from the mine to streams that are tributaries to Blount's Creek.

Before mining activities can begin, Martin Marietta will need to obtain a consistency determination from the state Division of Coastal Management and modify its mining permit from the state Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources to reflect its capacity use and discharge permits.

Martin Marietta Materials is the nation's second largest producer of construction aggregates used primarily to build highways and other infrastructure projects. The quarry operation is to be located on 1,664 acres within a 90,000 acre tract owned by Weyerhaeuser Company, and is anticipated to include a 649-acre open pit aggregate mine when fully developed.

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