



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
- Air Quality Commission -

The virtual AQC meeting was held using [WebEx](#) on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Air Quality Commission Members Absent

Aaron Levy

Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present

Leslie Rhodes Ieshishua Pierce Megan Green Jason Rayfield Danielle Jones Aaron Matijow
Chuck Greco Tori Jercich Ivonne Hernandez Sheldon Turner Andrew Deal Katie Nordin

Guests:

Jay Nivens, Martin Marietta
Ronald Ross, President of the Northwood Estates Neighborhood
Pamela Escobar, Mecklenburg County Public Information (Public Information Officer)
Erin Stanforth, Mecklenburg County Manager's Office (Sustainability and Resilience Manager)
Kay Tembo, Mecklenburg County Public Information (Community Relations Coordinator)
Other unidentified callers

1. Call to Order

Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. Recognition of New AQC members

Chair McGrath recognized the three new AQC members who filled the General Public positions.

Janet Garner-Mullins, Garrison Scruggs and Lisa Hooker introduced themselves to the AQC members and the Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) staff.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair McGrath asked for a motion for the approval of the February AQC meeting minutes.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to approve the February AQC meeting minutes as written.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Marcus Hackler.

Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Roll Call of the Air Quality Commission Members

Air Quality Commission Members Present

Peter McGrath Gordon Miller Garrison Scruggs Brian Magi Marcus Hackler
Terry Lansdell Rosa Mustafa Jamie Watts Lisa Hooker Janet Garner-Mullins

4. Public Comments to the Air Quality Commission (AQC)

A. Air Quality Permit Reviews

Public comment on the proposed permits will be received at this time. The Air Quality Commission opens public comment for air quality permit reviews per Mecklenburg County Air Pollution Ordinance, Regulation 1.5213 – "Action on Application; Issuance of Permit". Inclusion on the AQC agenda does not imply or infer any action or opinion by the AQC or its members regarding any permit.

Chair McGrath, opened the public comment period for the facilities below, providing notice of the Mecklenburg County Air Quality's (MCAQ) intent to issue/modify their air quality permit(s):

Facility Name	Facility Address	Action Type
Caliber Collision Center - Harrisburg 1562	11848 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28213	Open Public Comment
Concrete Supply Co., LLC - Arrowood	12148 Nations Ford Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28134	Alternative Notice

Jason Rayfield, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager, was available to answer questions.

B. General Comments to the Commission

Chair McGrath recognized Ronald Ross to give general comments. Mr. Ross informed the AQC members that he was the President of the Northwood Estates Community Organization along the Beatties Ford Road Corridor. In regards to a recent Martin Marietta application, Mr. Ross asked for clarification on the length of time for the 15 or 30 day public comment period and if there was a process make the public comment period 30 days to allow the public an opportunity to review and gather more background information on the permit. Mr. Ross asked a question concerning the permit application review summary and if there was a way to provide information on what is the acceptable level for emissions of the specified air pollutants that would make it easier for the general public to understand. It was stated that when a facility updates or adds new equipment to increase production, that may have an impact on the number of vehicles traveling through the community near the facility, which can have a negative impact on the residents nearby. Mr. Ross asked whether potential emissions associated with traffic can be addressed in the review process by making a traffic study request?

Mr. Ross provided the following questions and comments specifically about Martin Marietta:

- A request for an update on status of a traffic impact study,
- Update on review of the trucks and equipment at Martin Marietta that may be eligible for GRADE,
- A response related to resident concerns regarding blasting,
- Residents would like to schedule a meeting to discuss:
 - Future plans for the site (i.e, renovations, expansion and operations)
 - Environmental impact
 - Community Engagement

Chair McGrath asked Mr. Ross to submit comments in writing to Ieshishua Pierce. Leslie Rhodes thanked Mr. Ross for his comments and continual involvement.

4. Updates and Presentations

Chair McGrath asked if there were any announcements from the AQC members and MCAQ staff.

A. Announcements

FY22 Budget Priorities Update

Chair McGrath informed the AQC members that he will be presenting the AQC’s priority recommendations for the FY22 budget at the BOCC Public Policy Meeting scheduled for March 23rd. Iesha Pierce will email the link to the agenda for the meeting.

NC Breathe Conference

Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins informed the AQC members of the NC Breathe Conference being hosted by Clean Air Carolina that will be held virtually in April. The conference information will be emailed to AQC members.

Odor issue in the southern Mecklenburg County area

Megan Green, Mobile Source Program Manager, provide an update on recent odor issues in the southern Mecklenburg County area. It was stated that MCAQ has received odor complaints citing “rotten egg/sewer/sulfur” in the southern Mecklenburg County area. A multi-jurisdictional investigation across states has identified the potential source to be a paper plant in South Carolina. Agencies from North and South Carolina are working to investigate the odor.

Webinar featuring AQC members

The AQC members were informed that the webinar featuring AQC members will be held on March 31st at 12 p.m. Chair McGrath, Gordon Miller, Rosa Mustafa and Fern Paterson will participate as a Q&A panelist, new AQC members Lisa Hooker and Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins will also be incorporated in the webinar. Staff is still accepting volunteers for the panel. The AQC members will be provided information about the webinar to share or post on social media. The new AQC members were asked to provide a head shot that would be shared during the webinar.

[Written handout: AQC webinar flyer]

Draft AQC Annual Report

A draft copy of the 2020 Annual Report was emailed to the AQC members for review and the AQC members were asked to use track changes to provide comments in the Word document. All feedback should be submitted by April 16th with a vote on the final version of the report at the April meeting.

[Written handout: 2020 AQC Annual Report (draft)]

Update on Operations

MCAQ staff will begin scheduled and announced field inspections for Title V and Synthetic Minor sites in April.

Airwaves newsletter

The AQC members were informed that the annual airwaves compliance newsletter was issued on March 10th and Jason recognized Ieshishua Pierce for coordinating the newsletter.

Air Monitoring Updates

Danielle Jones, Monitoring Program Manager, provided the AQC members with an ozone update. The ozone season started March 1st and will run through October 31st. So far in 2021, there have not been any exceedance days in Mecklenburg County or in the region. The current ozone compliance value is 60 ppb. It was stated that the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast has shown

some moderate-yellow days for particle pollution, partially due to an increase in prescribed burns locally and across the Southeast region over the past few weeks. There have been no exceedances of PM10 or PM2.5 values in Mecklenburg County related to the uptick in prescribed burns.

[Written handout: Ozone Season Update (dated March 22, 2021)]

Chair McGrath recused himself from the discussion due to Martin Marietta being clients of his law firm. Vice Chair Marcus Hackler lead the discussion on the Quarry operations.

B. Quarry Operations

Leslie Rhodes, Air Quality Director, asked for a representative from Martin Marietta to attend the March AQC meeting to address some questions about quarry operations and recent permitted changes from AQC members. Leslie recognized Jay Nivens and asked Mr. Nivens to introduce himself. Mr. Nivens stated that he works for Martin Marietta as the Manager for Environmental Engineering for this region and he would do his best to address any questions from AQC members. After Mr. Nivens introduced himself the meeting was open for questions from AQC members.

Terry Lansdell, the AQC's transportation representative, had some concerns regarding the use of mobile sources and secondary transportation impacts of the Martin Marietta plants on the neighborhoods surrounding the site. Terry stated that he has trouble supporting the permit on the basis of the increased activity and changes to the production of natural resources for private profit. Terry addressed the previously reviewed and approved flexible permit for Martin Marietta, highlighting the trucks vehicle weight, number of single way trips and the potential of tons/hour pollution released. Terry would like to request specific traffic data for review to understand the total impact of traffic for Martin Marietta, direct comments on surrounding intersections associated with the permit changes and for Martin Marietta to consider community involvement to improve and accommodate transportation needs based on their facility's impact.

Mr. Nivens explained the permit modification will update old equipment allowing the site to bring in new equipment that will help increase overall production, not an increase in sales. The equipment is slated to go to the Charlotte Quarry to help with production and efficiency efforts. Rosa Mustafa asked Mr. Nivens if there has been any air monitoring to capture VOC/HAP data or if there are any plans for air monitoring at the site. Mr. Nivens stated that Martin Marietta does not have any air monitoring equipment. Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins asked a follow-up question concerning the air monitoring, she asked if the facility sees a need for a monitoring station? Mr. Nivens stated if requested by a governmental agency, the facility will do what they are required to do in the permit. Chair McGrath asked staff to confirm that the nearest Mecklenburg County air monitoring site located near the Beatties Ford Road facility to be Friendship Park; Leslie confirmed this is correct. Gordon Miller ask for clarification on some of the equipment. Mr. Nivens explained the difference between the equipment and the 2 main products produced at the facility.

Gordon leaves the meeting at 12:27 pm.

Prior to the meeting, Leslie emailed the questions received from Terry Lansdell concerning Martin Marietta at the February AQC meeting to Mr. Nivens; Leslie asked Mr. Nevins if he would like to address those questions. Mr. Nivens informed the AQC members of the facility's efforts with NCDOT to make transportation improvements. Mr. Nivens said that the facility had petitioned CDOT put a traffic signal light at the intersection off of Beatties Ford Road and the facility was notified that the requirements were not met to place a traffic signal at the intersection. It was stated that the City of Charlotte completed a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) and submitted the report to CDOT prior to the improvements at the Beatties Ford Road facility.

No further comments or questions were addressed to Mr. Nivens and Chair McGrath thanked him for joining the meeting.

Gordon Miller rejoins the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

C. Flexible Air Permits

Jason Rayfield gave a presentation on flexible air permits. A flex permit is a traditional stationary source permit that allows for specific, low-emission, agreed upon, and properly noticed changes to occur during the calendar year which are formally incorporated into the permit at the end of the year rather than at the time of each change. A flex permit is issued to reduce administrative burden for the regulator and the regulated industry with the focus being on compliance and transparency rather than paperwork and processes. Public comment periods for flex permits are listed on the AQC agenda for the issuance of the original permit and each individual flex change is listed on the AQC agenda during the year. The AQC members were provided information on the flex permit provisions and given examples of when modifications are not allowed as flex changes. In response to an email request from Dr. Brian Magi, a current list of active permitted sites held by Martin Marietta, including the type of permit and emissions data, was shared with the AQC members. Jason provided an overview on the Aggregate Industry including information on the Aggregate Industry in Mecklenburg County and a comparison of local and state procedures for Aggregate Industry air quality permitting.

Rosa Mustafa asked some questions about Martin Marietta being listed as an EPA Superfund site and ask if staff could take a more critical look at sites that have had past environmental issues. Chair McGrath responded that this would be a change in the regulation rather than a change in the permitting process. Leslie stated that AQC members can bring up this concern during the public comment period and ask the site to address. Jason informed the AQC members that the site must show compliance through a zoning determination before a permit could be issued. Terry asked if the county has the ability to change the public comment period from 15 to 30 days for flex change permits and if so, if this would conflict with the State regulation for these permits? Chair McGrath answered this question stating that since the State does not issue this type of permits, this would likely have to go before the Mecklenburg County BOCC and North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (NC EMC). Dr. Magi asked if content could be provided for each of the

permits MCAQ issues providing the amount of emissions for permitting facilities be tallied throughout the year and compared to the previous year. Jason addressed this question and Leslie said staff will look at ways to help highlight this emissions request.

[Written handout: Flexible Air Permits (PowerPoint presentation)]

Fern Paterson enters the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Terry Lansdell leaves the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

D. Breathing Room Transit Strategy

Megan informed the AQC members that she will be meeting with County Commissioner who serves on the Metropolitan Transit Commission to discuss the Transit Expansion strategy and would like to ask Terry Lansdell to attend. AQC members were asked to email Terry and Megan any input they have for the meeting.

E. Colonial Pipeline Spill Update

Leslie informed the AQC members that staff has received 3 additional reports (2 air monitoring and site wide emission assessment) from Colonial that MCAQ staff is currently reviewing and will provide additional information at the next meeting. It was stated that MCAQ has reached out to the site to inform them that a permit will be needed for activities going on. Leslie would like to receive additional information in response to monitoring.

5. Next Meeting

April 26, 2021 (virtual meeting)

6. Adjournment

1:05 pm.

Mecklenburg County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Mecklenburg County will make reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Mecklenburg County programs will be available in an integrated setting for each individual. If accommodations are necessary for participation in any program or services, participants are encouraged to notify staff.