

**SOUTHLAND RESOURCES, INC.**

**SEARLES MINE NO. 5, P-3894, R-12**

ALABAMA SURFACE MINING COMMISSION  
SURFACE MINING PERMIT APPLICATION

**P A R T   I I**

Prepared by:

**MCGEHEE ENGINEERING CORP.**

P. O. Box 3431  
450 19th Street West  
Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431  
Telephone (205) 221-0686

**PART II - Environmental Resources Information**

**A. Fish, Wildlife and Environmental Values**

- (1) Describe the measures to be taken, using the best technology currently available to minimize disturbances and adverse impacts to fish and wildlife and achieve enhancement of this resource where practicable within the proposed permit area. [780.18(b), 816.97(a)]

[SEE THE ATTACHED FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN](#)

- (2) Describe in detail the measures to be taken to restore or enhance, or steps to be taken to avoid disturbance of, habitats of unusually high value for fish and wildlife located within the proposed permit area.[780.18(b)(6), 816.97(d)(2)]

[SEE THE ATTACHED FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN](#)

- (3) Are there any wetland areas such as streams, lakes, marshes, etc. located in or adjacent to the proposed permit area which will be disturbed by the mining activities? [780.18(b)(6), 816.97(d)(3&4)] ( ) Yes. (XX) No.

If yes, briefly describe the feature(s), it's location and the extent of the proposed disturbance. Describe in detail measures to be taken to restore the area.

[SEE THE ATTACHED FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN](#)

If a stream channel diversion is proposed, describe in detail (including maps, diagrams or cross sections, if necessary) how the provisions of 816.44(d) will be met. Include a copy of all other necessary State or Federal approvals.

Not Applicable - None Proposed

- (4) Is fish and wildlife habitat to be primary or secondary post-mining land use? [780.18(b)(5)]  
( ) Yes (XX) No

If yes, describe in detail the post-mining measures to be taken to attain this land use including the target specie(s) of wildlife, plant species to be used and a map delineating the proposed arrangement of plant groupings and water sources on the permit area following reclamation.

- (5) If the pre-mining land use is fish and wildlife habitat and the proposed post-mining land use is cropland, describe the post-mining provisions to be made for wildlife. Attach a map

showing the location of trees, hedges, or fence rows to be used to diversify habitat types if appropriate. [780.18(b)(5)]

Not Applicable.

- (6) If the post-mining land use is to be residential, commercial or industrial, describe the post-mining provisions to be made for wildlife such as greenbelts, trees, or hedgerows composed of plant species useful for wildlife. [780.18(b)(5)]

**SEE THE ATTACHED FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN**

- (7) If any exceptions to Section 816.117(c)(1-3) are proposed, describe in detail the proposed practice including target species of wildlife, plant species to be used, planting rate and/or stocking density, planting pattern with appropriate map and anticipated results of the proposed practice.

Not Applicable.

**B. Cultural, Historical and Archaeological Resources**

- (1) Describe and identify any cultural or historical resources located in or adjacent to the proposed permit area which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Delineate the location of the resources on the permit map. Describe in detail the measures to be taken to minimize or prevent adverse impacts on the resources(s). (779.12, 780.14, 780.31)

See the attached site specific [Archaeological Survey 1 of 2](#) and [2 of 2](#) and [Alabama Historical Commission Comments](#). The Alabama Historical Comments cover both submittals.

- (2) Describe and identify any known significant archaeological sites located in or adjacent to the proposed permit area. The description shall be based on all available information including, but not limited to, data of State and local archaeological agencies. Delineate the site(s) on the permit map. (779.12, 780.14)

See the attached site specific [Archaeological Survey 1 of 2](#) and [2 of 2](#) and [Alabama Historical Commission Comments](#). The Alabama Historical Comments cover both submittals.

### **C. Threatened and Endangered Species**

Identify any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals or critical habitats of such species located in or adjacent to the proposed permit area. Delineate the location of the specie(s) or habitat(s) on the permit map. (780.14)

### **SEE THE ATTACHED FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN**

Two (2) determinations were requested for the two (2) different areas that make up Revision R-12. Findings are as follows: The initial determination by [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources \(DCNR\) 1 of 2](#) and MEC's second [SUBMITTAL to DCNR 2 of 2](#) indicate there are no areas of special concern. DCNR's 2 of 2 determination is forthcoming. The initial determination by [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\) 1 of 2](#) and MEC's second [SUBMITTAL to USFWS 2 of 2](#) indicate there are no areas of special concern. USFWS's 2 of 2 determination is forthcoming. Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is forthcoming.

**I. Land Use Information**

(1) Describe in detail the land use(s) existing at the time of the application. Give the number of acres and describe sufficiently so that areas can be identified on a map. If necessary, include a map showing land use units. (779.22)

<u>Increment</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Land Use</u>
1	94.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
2	73.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
3	17.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
4	194.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
5	56.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
6	15.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use
7	2.0 Acres	Undeveloped/No Current Use

(2) Give the applicable land use classification under local law, if any. (779.22)

Not Applicable

(3) Is any of the area prime farmland? (779.27, 785.17)

( ) Yes (XX) No

If yes, submit the information required in Section 785.17.

If no, show or state how the determination was made.

See [Attachment II-I-\(3\), Soils Map](#)

(4) Has the land use of any area on the proposed permit changed within the last 5 years?  
(779.22) ( ) Yes. (XX) No.

If yes, identify those areas and describe their historic use.

- (5) Has any area within the proposed permit been previously mined? (779.22)  
 Yes  No

If yes, complete the following:

- (a) Describe the area or show on a map.

See [Permit Map](#)

- (b) Was the area reclaimed?  Yes  No

If yes, under what law?  1969,  1975,  Interim Law.

- (c) Describe the land use of the area prior to any mining, or if this cannot be determined, describe the land use(s) of surrounding unmined land. (779.22)

The previously mined area (as well as can be determined) with the permitted area is made up of undeveloped/no current use.

- (6) Describe in detail, land uses of areas adjacent to the proposed permit area. (779.22)

The area joining the permitted area is made up of undeveloped/no current use and unmanaged timberland.

(7) Discuss the capability of the lands within the permit area to support a variety of land uses other than the current use. (779.22)

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Fescue</b>	<b>Soybean</b>	<b>Corn</b>	<b>Bahiagrass</b>
Palmerdale Complex 6 - 45% Slopes	--	--	--	--
Montevallo-Nauvoo association 10 - 45% Slopes	--	--	--	--

--: Not Rated  
AUM: Cow - Acre - Days  
BU: Bushels  
TN: Tons

\*\* Data obtained from the Tuscaloosa County Soil Conservation Service.

- (8) Give the premining productivity of the proposed permit area based on actual yield data or estimates based on data from similar sites. (If estimates, give sources of data used.) (779.22)

See [Attachment II-I-\(3\), Soils Map](#) .

<b>SOIL TYPE</b>	<b>SITE INDEX</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>
Palmerdale complex 6 - 45% Slopes	80	Loblolly Pine
Montevallo-Nauvoo association 10 - 45% Slopes	80	Loblolly Pine

\*\* Data obtained from the Tuscaloosa County Soil Conservation Service.

**J. Vegetation Information**

Delineate on a map, or describe in detail, the existing plant communities within the proposed permit area (and adjacent areas if required). List the predominant overstory, understory, and ground cover species (use common name only). Give approximate acreage covered by each plant community and approximate age of timber stands. (779.19)

The proposed permit area consist of previously mined, unreclaimed, unmanaged timberland. Due to the lack of reclamation and seeding, a dense ground cover has developed consisting of sage and various grasses, weeds, vines, briars and nonmerchantable pine and hardwood trees.