

# ALABAMA SURFACE MINING COMMISSION

## INFORMAL CONFERENCE

SHANNON, LLC  
P-3925, SHANNON MINE #2  
PERMIT APPLICATION RENEWAL

### DATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014  
9:00 A.M.

### LOCATION

ALABAMA SURFACE MINING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM  
PINNACLE BANK BUILDING 1811 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE  
JASPER, ALABAMA 35501

HEARD BY: ROBERT ARMES  
PERMIT MANAGER/BIOLOGIST  
ALABAMA SURFACE MINING COMMISSION

RECORDED BY: ANN R. MILES-GRESHAM  
HEARINGS REPORTER  
DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS  
ALABAMA SURFACE MINING COMMISSION

This informal conference was held at 9:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014, at the Alabama Surface Mining Commission Hearing Room, Pinnacle Bank Building 1811 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Jasper, Alabama 35501. The following is a transcript of the proceedings of said informal conference, including testimony and comments by the representatives and citizens.

## A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

Robert Armes  
Permit Manager/Biologist  
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Jasper, Alabama 35502-2390

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FOR THE PUBLIC:

SEE ATTACHED SIGN-IN SHEET

## P R O C E E D I N G S

**MR. ARMES:** Hello everybody my name is Robert Armes; I am the permit manager for this permit renewal. This is for your comments regarding permit 3925, Shannon Mine #2, permit renewal of Shannon, LLC. Its located in south west Jefferson County. Anything said here today will be recorded, typed up and will become permanent record. This is an opportunity for the Surface Mining Commission to hear from the public your questions comments or concerns. Any questions will not be answered today, they will be typed up and sent to our individual reviewers, answered and mailed to anyone that is on this list and posted on our website. If there is nothing else I am going to go down this list here and let y'all ask your questions or comments or concerns. Okay.

**MR. CLAY RAGSDALE:** Well...let me see I don't think I signed that...I think it might be helpful if I sort of led off and...with the idea that these are my clients for the most part...and ah...we can ah...maybe short cut some of the um...comments if that would work.

**MR. ARMES:** Okay.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Alright...so let me...I'm ah put my name down here at the bottom.

**MR. ARMES:** I guess Mr. Ragsdale.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Yeah...well thank you; I'm Clay Ragsdale. I'm an attorney in Birmingham and I represent some of the people that live near ah the Shannon mines. In the Adger area of ah...Jefferson County. Ah the mine...ah what we call the Shannon mines there's four different permits...ah that are involved in that operation. Ah the total acreage of those four permits is somewhere in the neighborhood of about six to eight thousand acres. Ah the permit that is being...um requested by the mining company...I don't think their representative is here

today. Alright...is the permit ah is called Shannon #2, we call it Shannon 2...they call it Shannon 2...and it is located um...there ah...between Adger and what ah was known as Lawson Town. It's about...it started out five years ago as a Twin Pines Coal Company permit, Robert... and it's initially was originally planned to be about 344 acres. It's been revised 10 times since then and it ah is now about a thousand acres. It's probably the deepest ah coal mine east of the Mississippi. Ah the mining company has told me that the mined high wall that would be 600 feet in spots. It has um...high wall has been cut and it's been in the same situation and the same ah— condition for the last two to three years. Ah we do not see from what we can observe any effort to reclaim that area. Ah, and it is now proposed to ah have another five years. Ah, they have extended the reclamation ah...got ah...a ah...variance from their requirement to do a contemporaneous reclamation...and so it's just sitting out there as this gigantic highwall, hole in the ground... ah producing dust...and you'll hear from some of the folks here today. Their water sources have been interrupted, contaminated from the continued existence of the ah highwall and the operations interference...or...um...with the water supply's there...and there's really no end in sight for these people. Um because of these...continuing renewals and revisions of this permit...and so they're faced with the...instead of having a...um mine that was planned in...five years ago with the idea they would have contemporaneous reclamation and it would be over by now or close to it. They have a ...ah mine...a hole out there with...that has not been reclaimed...contemporaneously and is going to be um...in the same condition for the foreseeable future. Until and if the mining company decides if they want to start mining again. So, that's a concern that the folks have out there. Ah, the mining operation out there has a long history...a chronic history of violating the permits. Not only the permit that the ASMC has given but also the permit from the ah... Ala...the ADEM. Ah there has been just recently...a relatively

recently a ah ADEM has fined the ah company...the operator \$35,000 for what it says was about 36 or 26 permit ah...in a water quality violations out there...and when I say out there that includes the various permits...ah the different permits...

**MR. ARMES:** Can...can we just concentrate on this one...

**MR. RAGSDALE:** NO...you know I...I don't want to concentrate just entirely on this because you know this operators operations is an issue and their violations at all of the different permits that they operate are germane to their...ah--history...

**MR. ARMES:** This is only for this permit renewal. Okay. It is not pertaining to the other Shannon's or any mines in the area. Just for this renewal.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Well what I'm talking about is the Shannon, LLC.

**MR. ARMES:** I'm talking about this renewal.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Okay...well you can strike my submissions if you want too...but what I'm going to do present to you is...ah...a list of violations that have occurred at this and the other permits. You'll see there that there's not just 26...there's 881 water violations. Ah, I'm also gonna...you probably have a copy of this too...the consent order...excuse me...signed by the um...Alabama Department of Environmental Management and David Muncher is the representative of the...ah mining company. It shows their ah...fine that they received for the...ah violations of the water permit...and I also present to you that those violations...even though they were addressed in that particular consent order...have been ah...or continuing...and have continued since that particular...or since that consent order. Which I think is also germane to your consideration or the ASMC's consideration of whether or not to permit the renewal of this permit. Ah...yeah I'd also direct your attention to your...your records as far as what I understand to be one of the criteria here in terms of renewal of the permit...and that is whether

the ah---mining company can be expected to...and it has been performing in accordance with this permit and with the environmental standards that are applicable to it...and what what we have...and I know your records reflect this and I know you are more familiar with them but I would like the commission to re-exam the history of violations at...ah these different permits that were issued to Shannon and what I think you'll find that is that...and of course...in its predecessor Twin Pines and what you'll find is that again a chronic violator. One that is not expected to and hasn't performed its operations in accordance with your rules on chronic basis...and again I would ah employ you to consider that their violations at 3, 4 and 1 reflect the ah---relevant to what you can expect them to do at #2 as well, which is to violation the permit on a chronic basis. I think too there's also there ah important to these people here is that there is not...you know there is not...you know there are issues that go beyond permitting...um limitations that are very important them...and what has happen out there...when Drummond took over this mining operation in about ah...in late 2010...ah, it escalated the operation substantially. So, what the folks are dealing with everyday or were while they were operating is a 24 hour 7 day operation that produces a tremendous amount of dust and noise and truck traffic that has caused a tremendous ah disruption to their community...and what the mining company and this permit renewal wants to do is to extend the life of the mine indefinitely. So they can continue or resume this at any time they want too. Ah, and we don't that they they should do that...they sat out at this...with this mine with a time table in mind and its unfair to the community to allow them to revise it and continue it indefinitely...and cause the great disturbance that they have. Now, I'd like to let some of the folks to speak to some of the issues and ah...what I would...ah suggest is ah that ah I've mentioned that the fact that theres some water quality problems...and the mining company with regard to number 2 in particular wanted

to mine through the Blue Creek Road and in doing that they explained to the people that were going to be um...have there ah...road...access to Adger cut off by that process that they were going to be good neighbors and buy them out. Well they didn't do that and so instead the people that live down at Blue Creek Road have and continue to have problems with the water with no ah--relief from the mining company. So, I...I'd like Ms. Cook if you would...ah can you just tell...ah Robert here a few things about your water quality and how the mining company has effected it.

**MS. COOK:** Yes, ah...

**MR. RAGSDALE:** If you don't mind me doing that...

**MR. ARMES:** Ms. Cook would you state your name and address for me.

**MS. BETTY COOK:** My name is Betty Cook.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Betty...you wanna come up here and sit right here...Is this a good spot for her.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes.

**MS. COOK:** My name is Betty Cook. I live at ah 6053 Blue Creek Road ah Brookwood, Alabama is the mailing address. Ah...it's in Lawstontown...ah I have a well or had a well I...when I...the water smell so bad that if you're taking a bath you can smell the foul smell from one end of the house to the other. You wash your clothes...you have to have special...chemicals to keep your clothes looking clean. Ah...you...when you wash them they smell after you put them in the closet. They absolutely stink like rotten eggs...and you...we bath with the water...we use it for ah cleaning the house in our commodes and things like that...but we cannot drink it. It is absolutely so foul that you cannot drink it. We have to buy our drinking water...the water we cook with and that runs about \$25.00 a week. Sometimes more depending on how often you cook. Ah...I

complained to Drummond about the water, they sent Doug Best over to me to talk to me about it. He says they didn't do anything to my water, which is a lie. I, also told him that he was telling a lie...because when they went down so deep they got into the main stream of the water...when you took a bath and shampooed your hair it felt like motor oil...pure motor oil. You could not feel clean...and he sampled the water and he said well it does have a foul smell but we had nothing to do with it. So what do you do? There's nothing you can...and I told him that if he was going to call me a liar to get up and leave...and the blasting shakes the house. I've got a leak on my porch and in my sewing room...and the dust is absolutely...no way of getting from it. You can clean your house, you can clean your porch and...you might as well sit and twiddle your thumbs because that's about as much good as it does you. When you walk across my house now, it squeaks. You can feel it moving and now that they've started doing something, I haven't figured out where they're at they're...its squeaking more...but now they're...I do know this they have come in and putting in quote "city water" at the church Old Blue Creek and they are coming down the hill from the church and going through the woods behind my house going to Drummond's trailers that they have offices and from there they are going to go two miles to Sumter Road and Johns Road and put in a water state...a pump station and they are going to come back he says...this is the fella from Warrior River Water Works...and they gonna come back and put in a six inch pipe to come by...back over to Lawstontown to our houses which will be next January or February. Which would have made more sense to me...cheaper...now I don't know what...maybe I don't know what I'm talking about but to me it would've been cheaper to have went a mile down in front of our houses and gave us water...than going all through the woods...and maybe giving Drummond their offices water before going to Sumter.

**MR. RAGSDALE:** Lets...we...let some other folks talk now...

**MS. COOK:** I'm sorry...okay

**MR. RAGSDALE:** I'm not rushing but we have to keep it moving.

**MR. ARMES:** It's alright if you're not finish you can continue but if you're done then we can get some other folks up here.

**MS. COOK:** I just want to know when they gonna do something....

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MS. COOK:** I am tired of paying \$20 to \$30 dollars a week for water.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MS. COOK:** ...and then they have the audacity to say we didn't do anything to your water. When I know good and darn well they did.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am. Thank you! Gloria Reed.

**MS. GLORIA REED:** I'll pass.

**MR. ARMES:** Elizabeth Parrish.

**MRS. ELIZABETH PARRISH:** Okay, I've been here before...I guess you could say that our...I only heard about this on last night...this meeting...

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MRS. PARRISH:** So as far as I'm concerned it was not very well advertised...because I think as a community we should have known before last night...and as I understand....ah it was not the mine that put the signs out it was some of the citizens...thank you. Okay...I only knew about it on last evening and ah so I really did not know exactly what the meeting was about but um I have problems with my home. I have um...ah there's ah...crack in the ceiling my house is unleveled and I I've only been in the house since 2003 and ah I've called the mining...Surface Mining Commission and I was told because I'm in a double wide mobile home that it was made

to move somehow it's not made to move the way the mine ah companies construction is...ah move...so I mean...I just don't...I don't see an end in site...because its just unseeingly...ah because its just going on and on and on...and we want to settle down...because it does disturb our lives.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am. Can you state your address ma'am.

**MS. PARRISH:** Oh I'm sorry 9160 Weller Sumpter Road

**MR. ARMES:** Thank you. Earnest Parrish...you got any comments.

**MR. EARNEST PARRISH:** Well just the same thing that my wife said and also the coal trucks run up and down the road tearing the ah... road up.... pot holes and ah with the noise...dust....ah and as we come out the community you have to almost stop and wait on them to get in and out of the road before we can even get out of the community. Ah its like they're saying we own the road...then in the curbs...they don't get over...you know its just a hazard.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes sir.

**MR. PARRISH:** So, ah basically that the...where they are mining at...I'm mined...I'mma coal miner and I mined...I was roof bolter there at Shannon. So, I know the...you know...its its deep and ah the blasting and I don't know for sure but I've heard that they're gonna to start the....the ah....yeah the cleaning...the ah...not the...the dragline...yeah and I think we back in the 70's they had ah Drummond mining down in our community down below our house. That dragline when it accelerate it seem like they coming through my living room...and it was noise from day...until they got they got through. So if they start the dragline up as...you know and the noise we had back in the 70's...I'm pretty sure the community gonna be rocking and...I mean with the noise and everything but ah...its just...but like someone said it seems like there's no ending to it and we feel like that we are small fish in a sea of sharks being ate up and nothing being done

about it. So, ah I know that's your business but not being considerate of other people that live in the community and ah we want it either stopped or either quieted down...and not trying to put nobody out of business but that's our livelihood.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes sir.

**MR. PARRISH:** You know so for as the house being unleveled and cracks and everything, some people...you know...even to my house and the other neighbors had complained about it...but ah we want...a little more cooperation.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes sir. Thank you sir.

**MR. PARRISH:** Thank you.

**MR. ARMES:** Cherri Martin.

**MS. CHERRI MARTIN:** Pass

**MR. ARMES:** Pass. Linda Martin

**MS. LINDA MARTIN:** Yes, my name is Linda Martin. I live at 6104 Blue Creek Road, Brookwood. Which is on...what they call sum...um Lawstontown. I was contacted in...I'd say the 1st of October in 2010 by Mr. Russian and another guy that all I ever knew him by was Zack. They came to my house and talked to me and asked me was I willing to sell. I told him from what I had heard yes I was because all of the talk had been everywhere that they were fixing to start stripping...that they were going to buy us out and they'd come and hadn't said anything to us. All we knew was hear say. So he says I'll be back at a later date. He'd supposed to come back in November, which was a no show. He'd come back in December and he told me...he said what...quote him a price that I would settle for. I quoted him a price and he said that sounds fine to me. He said I will be back the first of the year in which would have been 2012. He said and have us ah check and said you go ahead and make your plans to do what ever you got to

do to be ready to move. My son asked him said well I want to be....I don't want mother moving off said she is getting old. Said how long would you give her to find her a place or build her a place or whatever. He said well I'll give her six months at least but he said I wouldn't throw nobody out in the street. So I never heard anything else from him...yeah I even went and took what money I had saved and purchased a piece of property to be ready when ever he brought me a check to start with....cause I told him I said I can't do anything until you pay me for my house in which it was a house, a double wide trailer was...and we was putting that in with it and everything and he said well that sounded fine to him for the price. So never heard nothing else from him and...my water was good at that time and now I have to change my filter...if I don't change it every week, I got it change it every two weeks...and it leaves the awfulest stains specially around in the commode. It a get just like a film of oil...a floating around...and some of the chemicals that you have to use to get that mess off of your sinks and things will take your breathe if you don't have a window or a fan or something another that you can have blowing air on you...and I...they've done broke three places in my porch...I have concrete porch...they busted up my walkway, my driveway and my carport...and I don't know about...they come out and looked at it and they asked me what would I...how would...did I think I could fix those cracks in those places that were bursted if they gave me the stuff to do it with and I said well I've always been the type of person that would give anything a try but I said I've never fooled with anything like that and I said I wouldn't promise you what it would look like and I don't want it messed up like that...and I said it was fixed by a person that new what they were doing and I want it fixed back with a person that knows what they were doing...and I never got no comment on that.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MS. MARTIN:** So, my doors is getting unlevelled and when they would shoot dynamite you would just go to...have to grabbing pictures or anything that was hanging on the wall or sitting at the edge of anything to keep it from hitting the floor...and I got me a calendar and I went to marking everyday that they shot, what time they shot and I kept up with it for about three years...but I don't want to continue living like this and I've lived in this one house every since 1972...and I don't think it's right for them to come in and just tear up what you've worked all your life to have.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MS. MARTIN:** But...I'm just here and there...I...like the man said I hate to see people out of work and I know people needs a job but its not right for them to have a job and tear up what I've got.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am.

**MS. MARTIN:** But that's all I've got to say.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am. Earnest Martin.

**MR. EARNEST MARTIN:** Yes, I'm Earnest Martin. I live at 5557 Pleasant View Road in Adger...that's my mother she lives at 6104 Blue Creek Road. Like I say they come in and approached all of those people over there, lead them to believe they were going to purchase their property. What she failed to tell you is the last time they come they had a letter they wanted you to sign if--if they...if you liked what you heard they was gonna have a road closing....I'mma say he was there on a Thursday or Friday and the meeting was on Tuesday at the Jefferson County Commission that they wanted you to sign this letter and it would speed up the process of your purchase of your property...if you went along with their shenanigans. They got the road closed next Tuesday. When I left the courthouse I asked Richard Russian, okay Richard

ya'll got what you wanted when are we gonna hear from you folks. Mr. Martin as soon as the money goes into the account you'll be hearing from us. That was on the elevator leaving the building. They got the road closed none of these people to my knowledge have seen them since. They closed that road and absolutely destroyed the other way in and out of there...and they got some kind of rule where they drive on the wrong side of the road on their roads. Don't know what that's all about. You would meet those guys or those contractors on your side of the road on a regular basis because of the county road was so destroyed. Them guys that were contractors couldn't tell where the company road started and the public road started...and I'm gonna leave it at that.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes sir. Thank you, sir.

**MS. MILES-GRESHAM:** Ms. Parrish

**MRS. SUIVAAI PARRISH:** My name is Suivaai Parrish, 9170 Weller Sumpter Road in Adger and I am across from the Lawson. Literally I am here to support like my sister-in-law just said we all just found this out last night...so, my thing is why don't they move the mine next to their house. See how they feel...cause this is our home we try to build our home and they tell us so many different things. I been in one meeting and I think we were all there and that was the last thing we heard...and um our real issue is that I don't want them to pass that permit again. I stand strong for that and I'm pretty sure they all back me up. Let us be ourselves. Let us enjoy our home, our life because the money they offer is not enough for us to go out to the city and I literally say I don't want them to pass that permit.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am. Walter Parrish.

**MR. WALTER PARRISH:** I pass.

**MR. ARMES:** Alright. Doug Lawrence.

**MR. DOUG LAWRENCE:** My name is Doug Lawrence. I live at 4196 Big Oak Trail, Adger. Ah, my biggest concern here this morning and I know you've already said that...you know we're here as far as permit #2, which is mine #2. Ah, mine #2, mine#3, mine#4 is all in our community. Okay so, basically, you know I'm also the president of the community. I speak for me personally because the situation of the mines with vibrations and the different mining processes has damaged my home foundationally. Ah, I've had water levels drop in my ponds, killing my fish. Ah, since they've started this but also not only representing me but I represent the community and their concerns. Now, biggest reason here today is to address the Surface Mining Commission because from what I'm understanding and you can tell me if I'm wrong...I'm assuming that the mining ah corporation is addressing you for an extension for a permit that they've already had...and I would think...you know the Surface Mining Commission being ah--an organization of the state which I thought that looked out for our best interest as a community and as tax payers...ah, also you know I'm assuming the mining corporation is addressing you for a continuation of this permit and I would think it would be based on a continuation of we've already been there doing business. We've been there for quite a few years...we want to extend this permit ah because we've been a good company, we been in this community, we've done well by these people, we haven't torn anything up, ah we've tried to get along with them what...and in their own words we've been good neighbors to them. So you know we're kinda as a community looking to you as a Surface Mining Commission and as a state level when we've looked from the state level down through the county level and and the community and everything else for you know our elected officials and the people that work for us...you know being paid by tax payers dollars to address the issues and concerns that we have. I know that the mining commission or the mining corporation is meeting the restrictions and meeting the requirements that have been

set out but from what I understand you know, we're basically ah running on rules and regulations that have been in place for 40, 50, 60 years. Now, I've lived in that community for 30 plus years. We've had strip mining companies there before...years ago. We never had these kind of issues that we're talking about today because I believe the mining industry has changed. You know the mining industry back then 40 years ago maybe it...been going you know 75, 100 feet deep in the ground but the regulations and rules haven't changed but...and the mining industry has. We've got places that's 600 feet...so, you know common sense to me would be that if you're going deeper and you're going bigger and you're going harder, you're blasting more and you're blasting deeper, you're using more explosives and we've had the concern and this same concern is in this permit #2 and we know that 3's gonna come up and 4's gonna come up and we're gonna renew all these permits again but ah, you know we're looking at it as a community to the Surface Mining Commission and you know our elected officials to hear that these...this organization has not been a good neighbor, it has not done anything that it has promised...it came in and in our opinion...and oh this is the community's opinion that the...this mining company has come in and mislead these people in this community because they are lower income, because they are older, that they've mislead these people with the little \$1,000 dollar arbitration agreement that they get signed...you know it's a lot of money to these people \$1,000 dollars is...so you know they came in and said well we're gonna do...take all these pictures and we're gonna do a preblast survey, which they had been blasting two years before the survey had ever been done. So, you know there's a lot of things there that we're looking at as far as a concern of the community. It's like you came in here and you promised money to the schools, you promised money to the community, you promised to build a community center, you promised to give equipment and money to the fire department, you promised to fix our roads that you tore up, you promised to

watch over...you know make sure you didn't do anything to our water and have you seen already...you seen contamination to the water, you've seen the dust, you've seen the trucks up and down the roads tore up, the homes are being damaged by the vibrations so, you know what we're telling you is hey they've come into our community and claimed to be good neighbors or a good corporation and they haven't done anything. They've actually done the opposite. Now, they're coming to you...going oh well lets ah let us...let us extend this permit so we can continue to go on and do the same thing that we've been doing. So, you know we're looking to you as a Surface Mining Commission and as our officials and we're looking to you to look at these things and go wait a minute...you know we've go so many complaints and and you haven't done anything...oh yeah. By blasting records you can run over there and go oh they blasted by the right levels and oh they met all this stuff and oh yeah they've got their T's crossed and their I's dotted on a piece of paper but we're not a piece of paper. We're a community...we've had a lot of health issues that have increased since they've been there as far as the respiratory issues go...they've increased over that that time...I've got a grandson that's been diagnosed since then with asthma and a lot other people have...their COPD, asthma, bronchitis and yeah it's coming from all of this dust. You know we see the dust float over the community right after they blast. So, you know mining...my concern here is...I'm not trying to sit here and tell you everything that's going wrong but mine is that I'm looking at the sur...and the community is we're looking at the Surface Mining Commission to stand up and look at the history of what has gone on in our community and we're telling you this...you know it's not just hear say...we're telling you what's going on. Why would sit here and renew a permit for us to be inflicted with the same stuff that we've been inflicted for three to five years past. So, as a community we do not want this permit renewed and its not an issue of jobs...they keep running back oh you don't wanna...well yeah you laid all that you hired

in the community off right before Christmas and then they don't even have money to buy Christmas with...so you know its not an issue of you prevent...you establishing jobs in the community. So, everything they've done, everything they've promised they've not come across with, they've actually done the opposite, they don't really care how the community...fares, what damage they've done to it. So, we're here today to say do not renew this permit, you know based on what we...we told you today.

**MR. ARMES:** Very well.

**MR. LAWRENCE:** Thank you.

**MR. ARMES:** Thank you. Doug Lawrence.

(Audience stated that was him)

**MR. ARMES:** Sorry...wanna go again...

(Audience laughs)

**MR. ARMES:** Carolyn Culpepper:

**MRS. CAROLYN CULPEPPER:** Hi! I'm Carolyn Culpepper. I live at 4208 Big Oak Trail, Adger, AL. I have lived in this community for over 30 years. I am a disabled veteran. I moved into this community because it was a quiet community. Ah, we were able to raise our children in the community with ah without any problems from the mines and over five years ago the blasting started. My home was damaged...the floors...my ceramic floors has cracks in it, my hardwood floors ah creek when you walk across it, my windows has cracks in them, the seal in my windows has been broken until I had a power bill over 600 dollars this year. Um, I have had severe sinus problems, which I am taking medication for and I concur with our president ah Mr. Doug Lawrence on the issues he has ah spoken on today. I have sleep problems and I take medication for sleeping. You can hear the back up noises from the trucks all night long. You

wake up in the morning and you hear the noises...I am retired... and I want to rest. I cannot have parties at my home because I have white lawn chairs...and its just dusty and dirty. When they blast you can just see the orange powder and the various stuff and rocks up in the air...Um, I have headaches, I take medication for headaches now. Um, also I would like to talk about my well. We have a well on our property...we have animals. We moved to Adger from the city so we could farm...um my husband is a veteran as well and when we moved to Adger we brought our animals and we were able to have a well. We have city water now to utilize for our personal use inside of our home. We use the well water to water our pasture and and our animals. The level is so low now, we had to actually move our animals from one pasture and borrow a pasture so we could have um grass for our animals and water. Um, the doors in my home they're not closing properly and actually one of the doors was actually shaken from the frame. Ah, we have gone through so many problems in the Adger community, this is my second or third time coming here ah discussing this. When those trucks roll on the roads and they have a right to be there but they should drive more carefully. We've had trucks almost to hit our handicap school bus. They they do not abide by the rule that is given for us the other citizens because they're bigger than we are. and we are afraid of them and we are afraid of losing our lives on those roads. The noise in the communi...from the blasting...I have a right ear hearing problem I'm going through now and my doctor said how did this happen within the last few years. I don't know...the mines are blasting in my community...all the noise that's going on. So today I ask and I beg that this...ah mining commission to do not renew this um permit...and I ask that you all make them reclaim those areas that they have tarn...torn up. It is unsightly. We cannot enjoy the quality of air in our community, again I'm Carolyn Culpepper.

**MR. ARMES:** Thank you ma'am. Seleana Nelson.

**MS. SELEANA NELSON:** Yeah, that's me. I'm Seleana Nelson. I live at 5740 Pleasant View Road in Adger. Um, everybody has already said a lot of what I would like to say...I am worried about the air quality...we all have small children, grandchildren...if for some reason that permit goes through, which I do not want it too, in the future when our children have respiratory problems because of all of the dust particles and the ah bad stuff that's in the air is this mining company going to pay for our medical problems? Are they going to pay for everybody coughing now? Because I've heard several people coughing...I have a problem now, I keep coughing and I can't stop. I don't know why. Also, the roads are bad...okay that tears up our car. Like...you know we're not the richest people in the world. I can't afford to get an alignment every four or five months. I can't pay for a new tire because I found a pot hole and it tore my tire off and ain't got rubber on my tire no more. I can't do that. Has anybody from the Drummond Company came out to our community and went fishing? Looked at our ponds and saw that black rim around it? You can pick any pond, creek, river in our community and see that there's black stuff...its like oil sitting it. Why don't you go fishing and eat one of them fish and see if...by in ten...fi...yeah the well water...the well water is a big problem. If they're not afraid to come to our community and tear it up lets feed them a little bit of that food that we all eat on. I'm sure the majority of the people here used to go fishing but now we're afraid to eat the fish because if our well water and our pond water has got that yucky stuff on it what is those fish doing? Does it have a cancer cell or something in it that is going to make tumors later on. Our children you know they eat that because its an outdoor sport. You know...are they willing to come and have a fish fry one day? I mean its just...you know are they afraid to come and drink...let me fix y'all a glass of water from some of the wells and gone drink it. I'm just saying I don't want that permit to go through because I have a fear of getting sick. I don't...I work for

my children when I'm older how are they going to take care of their health? Is this company going to help pay for my child's health care...our health care...and how long is it going to last and the majority of the people that are older in here are going to be dead and gone. Well their survivors...what are you going to do about their homes...you know they still got an on going thing with the lawyer...are our homes going to still be fixed? Who's going to get those things fixed? How long is going to take? Are we just going to have to all move out? I don't want too. I chose Adger for my children because it was a quiet community. There's not a lot of problems going on. You know people love to fish, ride dirt bikes you can't no more...what if you fall in a crack because the mines are blowing stuff up and your kid falls off in a crack and breaks his leg and stuck out there in the woods somewhere you don't know what's going on. That's all I got to say.

**MR. ARMES:** Yes ma'am. Judy Smith.

**MS. JUDY SMITH:** I'm just with her.

**MR. ARMES:** Okay. Amber Whitlock.

**MS. AMBER WHITLOCK:** I don't have any comments.

**MR. ARMES:** Is that everyone on the list...comments.

**BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER REPRESENTATIVE:** Ah no.

**MR. ARMES:** Okay. Um, like I said earlier all the concerns and questions will be addressed by the specific reviewer that reviews that portion of the permit. Um anyone on the list...that want a mailed copy of the decision and it will be posted on the ASMC website as soon as the decision is made.

**MS. NELSON:** Is it ASMC.com

**MR. ARMES:** Yeah.

**MS. NELSON:** How are you going to get our address?

**MR. ARMES:** You told us. If you can just Google ASMC or Alabama Surface Mining Commission it'll pop up. Anything further? We are done.

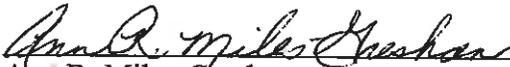
C E R T I F I C A T E



STATE OF ALABAMA        )

WALKER COUNTY         )

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing proceedings were electronically recorded taken down by me in shorthand or otherwise and questions and answers thereto were typewritten by me, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of said hearing. I further certify that I am neither of counsel nor of kin to the parties of the action nor am I anywise interested in the result of said cause.

  
Ann R. Miles-Gresham  
Hearings Reporter



SHANNON, LLC PERMIT RENEWAL P-3925  
INFORMAL CONFERENCE  
SIGN IN SHEET  
March 27, 2014

PRINT NAME

- GLORIA REED Amber Whillock
- ELIZABETH PARRISH \_\_\_\_\_
- EARNEST PARRISH \_\_\_\_\_
- Cherri Martin \_\_\_\_\_
- Linda Martin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ernest Martin \_\_\_\_\_
- Suivai Parrish \_\_\_\_\_
- Walter Parrish \_\_\_\_\_
- Doug LAWRENCE \_\_\_\_\_
- CAROLYN Rowell Culpepper \_\_\_\_\_
- Seleana Nelson \_\_\_\_\_
- Judy Smith \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Betty C. Cook \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ CLay RAGS DALE \_\_\_\_\_