



September 17, 2007

Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Re: General Shale and Brick - Conditional Use Permit

Commissioners:

I am Loyse Hurley, President of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities (CCEC). I live at 16 Matchwood in Pittsboro. CCEC has carefully reviewed the Conditional Use Permit application for General Shale and Brick. Overall, this project appears to be a good use for the property. It should provide needed employment for our citizens, an eventual reduction in truck traffic on Corinth Road and the expansion of an existing business. All positives that should be encouraged.

However, the application appears to be somewhat incomplete and requires additional information for you to make your determinations on the 5 findings. In this case, Findings 3 and 5 are of particular concern.

We recognize that some of the perimeter buffers are grandfathered, however we would suggest that these buffers be increased where ever possible. This would provide a better proposal with respect to meeting the terms of Finding 3 concerning the integrity and character of the surrounding area. Additionally, since this is a clay mining operation, there is no mention of dust suppression measures, which would also relate to Finding 3. It is mentioned however that County water is not used. We question the use of well water for dust suppression, because of the impact on the existing wells in the area, especially during drought conditions when the aquifer can be lower. Using of collected rain water for proper dust suppression, is questionable especially during periods when there is no rain.

The environmental aspects of this proposal are involved with both Findings 3 and 5. Our review indicates additional information is necessary, in order to meet these findings. The September 2007 map prepared by the Planning Department shows what appears to be blue line streams, yet the developer's Exhibits C and D do show intended buffers but do not indicate any buffers for these streams. Have all the perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams, wetlands and other water bodies been identified on this site? It would appear from the topography of the site, that there are a number of streams that may drain this site. This information is lacking within the application. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission have recommended 100 foot buffers in addition to other recommendations and CCEC agrees with their recommendations.

Furthermore, this area is located in the WS-PA-IV area of the watershed, yet, once again, any

PO Box 412 Pittsboro, NC 27312

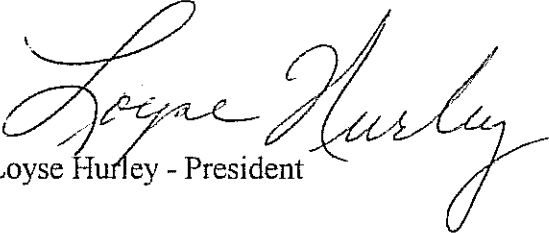
description of internal stream buffers are not mentioned. The application only refers to meeting the 36% impervious surface requirements.

Several stormwater retention ponds are included in this proposal. There is no description of these retention ponds. They are placed in the topographically low lying areas. Are they intended to retain 1 inch of stormwater over a 24 hour period or do they intend to utilize the more practical 2 inch retention? Is there any intention to monitor this storm water discharge? According to anecdotal information, this mining operation has had a history of muddy discharges into the streams in the area.

General Shale and Brick intend to close the Corinth Road mine and begin the reclamation process. The reclamation plans are presumably on file with the State. Yet, there is no reclamation plan included in this application for the eventual closure of the subject property. There is no description of how the applicant plans to clear the site for mining. Do they plan to clear cut the entire site at once? Or do they plan to clear cut in sections and reclaim as they proceed? The information is simply not included and should be.

We recommend that these environmental and process issues be resolved prior to further consideration of this Conditional Use Permit. Perhaps, General Shale and Brick would even consider submitting a voluntary Environmental Assessment for this site.

Thank you,



Loyse Hurley - President