

NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

February 9, 2024

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHARLTON
NOTICE OF DRAFT PERMITS

To All Interested Parties:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces an opportunity to provide comment on draft permits for Air Quality, Use of Groundwater, and Surface Mining for Twin Pines Minerals, LLC. The facility will be located on State Route 94 (Parcel No. 00590001002 and 0058001), St. George, Georgia.

Air Quality Permit

Description of Operation: To construct and operate a new mineral sands processing plant to produce mineral concentrates of titanium, staurolite, and zircon. Air emissions equipment at the plant will include three indirect-fired propane rotary dryers and two electrically heated feed reheaters with two wet scrubbers and baghouses for controlling air emissions. The facility will be a true minor source in accordance with the Georgia Air Quality Act O.C.G.A. § 12-9-1 et. Seq.

Permit to Use Groundwater

Description of Operation: Withdraw, obtain, or utilize maximum system wide total of groundwater in the amount of 1.44 million gallons per day from the Floridan Aquifer. The purpose of consumptive use is to process water for surface mining of mineral sands in accordance with the O.C.G.A. § 12-5-90 et. Seq. Groundwater Use Act and the Rules for Groundwater Use Chapter 391-3-2.

Surface Mining Permit

Description of Operation: To conduct mining operations to mine heavy mineral sands in Charlton County. The permit is conditioned upon the reviewed MLUP that details the mine operation in accordance with the O.C.G.A. § 12-4-72 Surface Mining Act and the Rules for Surface Mining 391-3-3.

The draft permits and all information used to develop the draft permits are available for review. This includes the application and all other relevant materials available to the permitting authority. This information is available for review at the office of the Land Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Atlanta Tradeport- Suite 104, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. Copies of the draft permit applications are also available through the Twin Pines information site <https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pines>.

If copies of files are desired, a copying machine for public use is provided by the EPD at the Tradeport office. There will be a copying charge of \$0.10 per page. Copies will be made on a

first-come, first-served basis. Files are currently available for review and copying from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm by appointment, excluding holidays. To make an appointment, email Tradeport.FileReview@dnr.ga.gov or call 404-362-2537.

The public may submit written comments concerning the draft permits. Persons wishing to comment on the draft permit are required to submit their comment, in writing, to the EPD at the above address, or via email to twinpines.comment@dnr.ga.gov. Comments must be received by the EPD no later than **60** days after the date on which this notice is first published online. (Should the comment period end on a weekend or holiday, comments will be accepted up until the next working day.) The EPD, in making its final decision to issue permits, will review all comments received on or prior to that date.

The EPD will also host a virtual public meeting to provide an opportunity for attendees to make verbal comments on the draft permits. A short presentation on the draft permits will precede each public meeting. Participants are asked to limit their comments to no more than 2 minutes.

The virtual public meeting will be held on March 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada), and will be conducted using Zoom, a free web-based video conferencing tool that also allows participation by phone (dial-in). Please be aware that the Zoom webinar format has a maximum attendance of 1,000 participants and there is a possibility that the meeting will reach capacity for attendance and comments. Please register prior to the meeting to receive the link to the Zoom webinar. During registration, you will need to choose if you would like to make a verbal comment during the meeting. The EPD will use the registration to call names for verbal statements during the meeting. If time allows participants that did not register to make a verbal comment will be invited to do so, and names will be called for the participants who raise their hand. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may make a comment by following the instructions for written comments provided above. Additionally, the EPD will make a recording of the meeting available on our website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pines>.

- [Zoom Meeting Registration March 5, 2024](#)

To ensure that you are ready to participate when the meeting begins, we recommend that you download Zoom in advance. More information on Zoom can be found here: <https://zoom.us>. Please note that if you choose to participate by phone, your number may be visible to other meeting attendees.

After the comment period has expired, the EPD will review all comments, make any necessary changes, and make a final recommendation on the draft permits to the Director. The EPD will create a written response to comments giving a summary of comments and responses and describe any changes made to the final permits. Copies of the final permits, comments received, the EPD response to comments, and any other relevant information will then be made available for public review from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm by appointment at the Tradeport office. A copy of the response to comments and the final permits will be added to the Twin Pines Minerals, LLC webpage at <https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pines>.

For additional information, contact the manager of the Surface Mining Unit by phone at (470) 251-2589 or email at epd.surfacemining@dnr.ga.gov. Please refer to this notice when requesting information.