

Oct 29, 2025

*Via email*

Richard Rogers, Director, Division of Water Resources  
Julie Grzyb, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resources  
Michael Montebello, Water Quality NPDES Permitting Chief  
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Richard.rogers@deq.nc.gov  
Julie.grzyb@deq.nc.gov  
[Michael.montebellow@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Michael.montebellow@deq.nc.gov)

**Re: Recommendations for Revisions to NPDES Permit No. 0089168 for Martin  
Marietta Materials' Vanceboro Quarry in Beaufort County, NC**

Dear Director Rogers, Deputy Director Grzyb, and Mr. Montebello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the newest Draft Permit revisions of NPDES Permit No. 0089168 for Martin Marietta Materials Vanceboro Quarry. Sound Rivers, founded in 1981, is a grassroots environmental organization representing nearly 3000 members and is a licensed member of Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. Our mission is to monitor, protect, and enhance the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River watersheds while promoting environmental justice. Sound Rivers has been involved in this permitting process since its very beginning when Sound Rivers staff discovered plans for Martin Marietta's Vanceboro mine in 2011. Sound Rivers and its members continue to have vested interest in this permit renewal.

Sound Rivers and the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) have written various comments suggesting revisions and additions to previous versions of this discharge permit dating back to 2012. SELC is also submitting comments on Sound Rivers' behalf on this newest Draft Permit which we fully endorse. In addition to SELC's comments, Sound Rivers has shared a brief letter with the community members of Blounts Creek and other stakeholders in the continued wellbeing of the Creek, that includes additional recommendations and requests for the Draft Permit, which over 260 people have signed-on to. That language and the signatories can be seen below:

*"...Since 2011, Sound Rivers and many local residents have objected to the mine wastewater discharge to the headwaters of Blounts Creek. During a public hearing in 2024, more than 600 spoke out against the permit. The creek, a popular fishing and recreational resource, maintains a vibrant, diverse and healthy population of both freshwater and saltwater fish species. A healthy and natural Blounts Creek is important to the local residents and the economy of Beaufort County.*

*Due to changes in federal law brought about from a troubling U.S. Supreme Court decision that weakened states' ability to enforce permit provisions protecting stream water quality, NCDEQ*

*has amended Martin Marietta Materials' wastewater discharge permit and is once again seeking comments on the most recent draft. Any permit must be enforceable and protect the integrity of Blounts Creek from a large discharge that will alter the stream's natural chemical, physical and biological characteristics. We, the undersign, urge NCDEQ to include the following:*

- ***DEQ must ensure that the monitoring and reporting conditions in the permit will accurately and transparently document all impacts of the mine's 12MGD discharge to Blounts Creek***
- ***DEQ must establish reference conditions to be able to adequately compare the conditions in Blounts Creek before and after the discharge begins***
- ***DEQ must clarify what thresholds qualify as "levels of concern" such as to allow the permit to be re-opened and modified.***
- ***DEQ must ensure that the permit conditions are enforceable by providing clear enforcement actions if permit conditions are not met. DEQ must outline the consequences to the permittee when negative impacts to stream clarity (turbidity), increasing land and stream bank erosion, and/or benthic population impacts are documented***
  - ***Enforcement actions are not specified in the draft permit. What action will be taken if visual observations of erosion at the outfalls are seen, if turbidity, pH, and salinity data shows signs of impact to the Creek, or if benthic surveys show significant decline in populations and species diversity?***
- ***DEQ must set an example for how the Supreme Court decision is interpreted in ALL subsequent NPDES permits across the State by ensuring that the permit conditions are strong and effective enough to ensure compliance with water quality standards instream."***

We urge DEQ to consider these recommendations, as well as SELC's recommendations, and use their full authority to ensure the protection of Blounts Creek. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please reach out to me at [katey@soundrivers.org](mailto:katey@soundrivers.org) or 252-946-7211 if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Katey Zimmerman  
Pamlico Tar Riverkeeper  
Sound Rivers

Benjamin Deck	Washington, NC 27889
Melinda Vann	Blounts Creek, NC27814
Phyllis Daw	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Rowan Wakley	Bothell, WA 98011
Caroline Guard	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Alex Dosser	Greenville, NC 27858
JoAnne Benson Poore	Chocowinity, NC 27817
George Carr	Faison, NC 28341
Sarah Jackson	Raleigh, NC 27616
Thomas Poore	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Christie Mclawhorn	Greenville, NC 27858
Linda K Rubright	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Natalie Lew	Raleigh, NC 27623
Robert Boulden	York, PA 17408
Jennifer McKinnon	Blounts Creek, NC 27858
Marta Whichard	Aurora, NC 27806

Jerry Ryan	Trent woods NC 28562
M. White	Durham, NC 27704
Susan Izatt	Raleigh, NC 27615
Robert Harris	Raleigh, NC 27615
Robert T Rice	Aurora, NC 27806
Philip Ninan	Washington, NC 27889
Kathryn Irmiger	Washington, NC 27889
Carl Crozier	Washington, NC 27889
John Hinnant	Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Cindy Wooten	Greenville, NC 27858
Shawn Bennett	Blounts Creek NC 27814
Barbara Sykes	Kinston NC
Bruce Baughman	New Bern, NC 28562
Dorson White	Greenville, NC 27858
Sarah Hicks	Winterville, NC 28590
Thomas Hicks	Winterville, NC 28590
Judith Lynch	Minnesott Beach NC 28510

David Boyette	Elm City NC 27822
James Blumenthal	Washington, NC 27889
Pamela Yelle	Smithfield, NC 27577
Sheri Soffian	Cary, NC 27518
Robert Weber	New Bern NC 28560
David Zeis	Oriental,NC 28571
Ruth Turner Goins	Washington, NC 27889
Jacquelyn Jorns	Clayton, NC 27520
Dennis Harms	New Bern, NC. 28560
William Ryan Page	Whitakers, NC 27891
Alysia Richard	Raleigh, NC 27604
Linda Mews	Morehead City, NC 28557
Teresa Carraway	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Emily, Bundy	Winston Salem, NC 27106
Timothy Klugh	Greenville, NC 27858
Julia, Curtis	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Donald R Miller	Bath, NC 27808

James Grady	Clayton, North Carolina 27520
Donald Seaman	New Bern, NC 28562
Jill Silberstein	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Lauren Smith	Raleigh, NC
Polly Meyer	New Bern, NC 28562
David N Collier	Greenville, NC 27834
Paul Larkin	Princeton, NJ, 08540
Linda Boyer	Washington, NC 27889
Yrma Perdomo	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
James Gower	Trent Woods NC 28562
Lori Gaskins	Bridgeton, NC 28519
Charles w Baumann	Geneva, IL 60134
George Bryan	Belhaven,NC 27810
Fred Read	Arapahoe, NC. 28510
Susan Redding	Greenville, NC 27858
Emilie Kane	Greenville, NC 27858
Lewis Forrest	Ayden, NC 28513

Jane Olstad	New Bern , NC 28562
Scott Bilbro	Cary, NC 27511
Katherine Mitchell	Washington, NC. 27889
Latesha Ballard	Wilmington, NC 28411
Marie Cristiano	Bermuda Run, NC 27006
Robert Smith	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Joanne Smith	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Bob W Daw	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Scott Lecce	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Thompson	Blounts Creek NC 27814
Julie Linder	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Natalie W McKeel	Kinston, NC 28501
Barbara Walker	Greenville, NC 27858
Willie McKeel Jr	Kinston, NC 28501
Brian McKeel	Kinston, NC 28501
Sarah Perkins	Goldsboro, NC 27530
Jonathan Phillips	New Bern, NC. 28560

Katie Dukes	Raleigh, NC 27605
Jennifer Smith	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Cindy, Seymour	New Bern, NC 28562
Diana Lambeth	Belhaven, NC 27810
Meganne Smith	Newport, NC 28570
Marcia Bosch	Wilmington, NC 28412
Mary Ann Parham	Oriental, NC 28571
Clarissa T Harden	Chocowinity, NC 278917
Karin Petzold	Raleigh, NC 27614
Joseph C Pivar	Chocowinity, NC 278917
Hannah, Kirby	Washington, NC 27889
Lonnie Foreman	Winterville, NC 28590
Betsy Hester	Washington, NC 27889
Joe Hester	Washington, NC 27889
B. A. Hester	Washington, NC 27889
Donna Etheridge	Raleigh, NC 27607
Wanda Geisen	Washington, NC 27889



William Hudson	Morehead City, NC 28557
Annie Doran	Durham, NC 27707 with family in Blounts Creek
Harold Vandersea	New Bern, N C 28560
Betsy Keller	Winston-Salem, NC 27127 and Bath, NC 27808
Chris Dowdle	Clayton, NC 27527
John Dempsey	Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278
Doreen Livermon	Greenville, NC. 27858
Anna Helvie	New Bern NC 28560
Leslie Stewart	Chapel Hill, NC 27516
John, Owens	Minnesott Beach, NC 28510
Robert Laing	Belhaven, NC 27810
Stephen Pomeroy	Durham, NC 27705
Dan Edwards	Raleigh, NC 27607
Frances Cabe	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Darcy Vanderhoof	Durham, NC 27705
Christina, Marshen	Washington, NC 27889

Todd Burrier	New Bern, NC, 28560
David Burrows	Oriental, NC 28571
Eileen Price	Oriental, NC 28571
Margaret Sowerwine	Rocky Mount NC 27801
Peg Vick	Oriental, NC 28571
Judy Payne	Wilmington NC 28409
Rickey Foss	La Grange NC 28551
Harmon Perry	Washington, NC 27889
Lianna Jarecki	Oriental, NC 28571
Heather Santos	New Bern NC 28562
Peter Farrell	Washington, NC 27889
Doris Jackson	Raleigh, N.C. 27610
Sharon Rathbun	Washington, NC 27889
Shelley Townley	New Bern, NC 28560
Mary F Davidson	New Bern, NC28560
Joan Neubert	Chocowinity, NC. 27817
Cynthia Wiens	Stokes, NC 27884

Anne Skalski	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Steve Windle	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Gary Skalski	Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
carol kushlak	Chesterfield, VA 23832
Julie Risher	Washington, NC 27889
Mindy Maddin	Washington Park, NC 27889
Leslie Kelley White	Bath, NC
Susan Foster-Dixon	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Brent Dixon	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Brenda Bateman	Blounts Creek. NC. 27814
William Bateman	Blounts Creek. NC. 27814
Laura Greene	Greenville,NC 27858
Caroline Phelan	Raleigh, NC 27604
Michi Vojta	Raleigh, NC 27609
Malcolm T. Simpson, Jr.	Bath, NC 27808
Neill Harden	Cary, NC 27511
Frank Johnston	Washington, NC 27889

Frank Johnston	Washington, NC 27889
Cathy Earp	Rocky Mount, NC 27803
Jeffrey Monico	Grimesland, NC 27837
Bill Hines	Oriental, NC 28571
Ernie Larkin	Greenville, NC 27858
Alan Johnson	Chapel Hill NC 27516
Alan Capps	Goldsboro, NC 2753
Renee Capps	Goldsboro, NC 27530
John Minges	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Lori Newman	Greenville, NC 27858
Kathleen Taylor	Washington, NC 27889
Marshall Taylor	Washington, NC 27889
Ann Meyer	Youngsville, NC 27596
Diane Richard	Raleigh, NC 27604
Larry Taylor	West Friendship, MD 21794
Larry Kent Jordan	Blounts Creek NC 27814
Catherine Kastleman	Durham, NC 27701

Andrew Nilsson	Washington, NC 27889
William Boyer	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Gary Strang	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Roy Carlton	Greenville, NC 27858
Vann Knight	Washington, NC 27889
Leigh Ann Muse	Tarboro, NC 27886
Katelin Koerner	Winterville, NC 28590
David Silberstein	Blount Creek NC 27814
Jim Winslow	Tarboro, NC 27886
Katherine R. Winslow	Tarboro, NC 27886
Kathryn Topp	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Robert Zimmerman	North Wales, PA 19454
Kellie Watts	Atlantic Beach NC 28512
Caroline Warmack	Vanceboro, NC 28586
Maureen Johnson	New Bern, NC 28562
Thomas Jihnskn	Washington, NC 27889
Linda Cleve	New Bern NC 28562

Kimberly Ives	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Kate Lewis	New Bern NC 28560
Gail Hargett-Lilly	Oriental, NC. 28571
Xylona Wangila	Greenville, NC 27858
Peter Boettger	Belhaven, NC 27810
Greyson Briere	Beaufort, NC 28516
Eugene Muse	Tarboro, NC 27886
Elizabeth Holton	New Bern NC 28560
Mary Abrams	Cary, NC 27519
George & Nannette	Aurora, NC 27806
Ashley Martin	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Vince Vermeul	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Gray James Michael Parsons	Frisco, NC 27936
Perry Coltrane	Goldsboro, nc 27534
Bradwood Leggett	Greenville, NC 27858
Kimbra Dillon	New Bern NC 28560
Mark Dillon	New Bern NC 28560

Charles Stephens	Raleigh, NC 27614
Hazel Bright	Durham, NC 27705
Jamie Jacobson	Greenville, NC 27858
Linda Zimmerman	Washington, NC 27889
Gena Zerbin	New Bern, NC 28562
Chloe Paramore	Youngsville, NC 27596
Jeffrey, Briley	Oak City, NC 27857
Monica Tornoff	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Joanna Rutter	Oak City, NC 27857
Jane Ellen Flannery	Washington, NC 27889
Sonya Watkins	Washington, NC 27889
Raymond Cuneo	New Bern, NC 28562
Patrick Flannery	Washington, NC 27889
Linda Hess	Washington, NC 27889
Kathryn Hitchcock	Oriental, NC 28571
Rachel Gallahan	Merritt, NC 28556
Dorita Boyd	Washington, NC 27889

Patrick King	Greenville, NC, 27858
Robbie Rice	Aurora, NC 27806
Diana Breiner	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Arnold Vanpatten	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Lisa Torgan	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Everette walker	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Clinton Torgan	Chocowinity, NC 27817
David Quante	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Lynn Borrie	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Kevin Kane	Raleigh,NC 27609
Felicia Myott	Wilmington, NC 28403
Lee Overton	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Billie Ranson	Chocowinity, NC, 27817
Stephanie Seals	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Dolores Donovan	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Edie Loescg	Greenville, NC 27858
Doreen Livermon	Greenville, NC. 27858



Kirby Cook	Raleigh, NC 27609
Charles McGinnis	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Holly Wilson	Greenville NC, 27858
Lauren Chesson	Snow Hill, NC 28580
Rachel Baker	Winterville, NC 28590
Heidi Laurion	Greenville, NC 27858
Albrecht McLawhorn	Greenville, NC 27575
Brenda Lovic	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Flora Handerhan	Spring Hill, Florida 34609
Thomas, Handerhan	Spring Hill, Florida 34609
William Ranson	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Guin Burnard	Edward, NC 27821
Thomas, Mann	Belhaven, NC, 27810
Bryan Appleba	Chocowinity, NC 27817
Stuart Creighton	Dunn, NC 28334
Kierstin smith	Cleveland, GA 30528
Shayna Dudak	Oriental, NC 28752

Mary Elizabeth Haubenreiser	Washington, NC 27889
Greg Dudak	Oriental, NC. 28571
Penny Vermeul	Blounts Creek, NC 27814
Stephanie Lake	Wendell, NC 27591
Kristal Gauthier	Greenville, NC 27834
Melissa Gebhardt	Aurora, NC 27806
Michele Azzam	Oriental, NC 28571
Mary Mehlich	Washington, NC 27889
Jennifer O'Neill	Vanceboro, NC 28586
Danika Cooper	Greenville, NC 27834