

Response to Public Records Request and Comments

From: Rhian, Marisa (marisa.rhian@floridadep.gov)

To: stillpe@aol.com

Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 02:22 PM EDT

Mr. Still,

The Department appreciates your input and concerns in respect to mining activities at the Chemours Trail Ridge South Mine.

Under current regulatory requirements, mining activities undergo a detailed technical review and generally involve a coordinated opportunity for input from other federal, state, and local permitting agencies. Mines in Florida are subject to Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) requirements under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), as well as the mandatory reclamation requirements of Chapter 378, F.S. These outline a range of important water quality and environmental resource protections that must be met before any mining activity can be authorized. A basic principle of environmental regulation in the State of Florida is that an applicant must provide reasonable assurance that environmental protections can be met, which includes reclamation and wetland mitigation requirements related to permitted mining. Successful reclamation and mitigation necessarily include protection of water quality and quantity, replacement of regional drainage patterns, protection and replacement of habitats and species, and safeguarding of the public's health and safety.

In your emails, you mentioned concern regarding potential adverse impacts from the Trail Ridge South Mine to water resources. Environmental Resource Permit MMR_137482-018 was issued on May 26, 2021, and the Industrial Wastewater Permit FLOA00014-001-IW3S was issued on August 12, 2022. Before the permits were issued, the application was reviewed to ensure the mining activities would not adversely impact water resources. Please be assured that the Department closely reviews all applications to ensure that the appropriate assurances have been provided before taking action. Thank you for sending your concerns about the mine's operation to the Department. The Mining and Mitigation Program will review your concerns and investigate as needed during our routine inspections of the mine.

The Department's Mining and Mitigation Program works to ensure mining activities are operations within the permit conditions for issued Environmental Resource Permits. We believe that our laws and environmental regulations have evolved significantly, as have the techniques and designs for protecting water quality, and successfully performing wetland mitigation and land reclamation. The increased levels of oversight and protections under our environmental programs are essential for preserving and restoring Florida's vital water resources and ecology.

The public records for the Trail Ridge South Mine, Environmental Resource Permit file, MMR_137482-018 from January 2024 can be found at:

[https://depdms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=hitlist&\[freeText=\]&\[folderName=\]&\[profile=\]&\[creator=\]&\[entityType=any\]&\[createdDateTo=\]&\[catalog=26\]&\[searchBy=Property\]&\[sortBy=Document+Date\]&\[createdDate=\]&{Document+Date=_RG_\(01-01-2024,12-31-2024\)}&{Facility-Site+ID=_EQ_MMR_137482}](https://depdms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=hitlist&[freeText=]&[folderName=]&[profile=]&[creator=]&[entityType=any]&[createdDateTo=]&[catalog=26]&[searchBy=Property]&[sortBy=Document+Date]&[createdDate=]&{Document+Date=_RG_(01-01-2024,12-31-2024)}&{Facility-Site+ID=_EQ_MMR_137482})

In regards to the specific request for data regarding radium at the Trail Ridge South Mine, Environmental Resource Permit file, MMR_137482-018 does not have a specific monitoring related to radium.

Sincerely,



Marisa Rhian, PWS, CWE, FCCM, FCCN
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DWRM, Mining and Mitigation Program

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