

STOP ASPHALT PLANT POLLUTION

In June 2015 Appalachian Materials, LLC submitted an application to the North Carolina Division of Air Quality to build and operate an asphalt plant on Glendale School Road in Glendale Springs, NC. In August, they amended their application.



WHAT WE KNOW

The application now requests permission to manufacture up to 300 thousand tons of asphalt a year. Information supplied by Appalachian Materials includes the following annual levels of pollution to be permitted:

Actual Air Pollution from Appalachian Materials

Air Pollutant	Pounds per year emitted to the air
Sulfur dioxide	79,460
Nitrogen oxides	29,020
Carbon monoxide	42,880
Volatile organic compounds	14,640
PM-10	10,520
Formaldehyde	956
Toluene	876
Naphthalene	198
Benzene	119
Ethyl benzene	77
Xylene	72

Also, toxic cadmium, chromium, arsenic, hydrogen sulfide, mercury, dioxin and methyl ethyl ketone would be emitted. All told, nearly 200 thousand pounds of air pollution could be released annually, with negative impacts on agriculture and human health.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The request for a permit must now go through several steps. A thirty-day public comment period began September 4 and continues through October 6. Send your comments to Jalal Adouli, NC DENR Division of Air Quality, 450 West Hanes Mill Road Suite 300, Winston-Salem, NC 27105. Email: jalal.adouli@ncdenr.gov The draft permit and the state's review are available at <http://daq.state.nc.us/calendar/> Check September 4 on the state's calendar to find documents for Appalachian Materials.

Important: the state will hold a public hearing on October 6, 2015 at the Ashe County Courthouse in Jefferson, NC. You have the right to tell the state, at the hearing or in writing, what you think about asphalt plants. Ashe County has a role to play, too. Ashe has a Polluting Industries Ordinance and a Watershed Protection ordinance. It is the county's job to say where polluting industries may be located and where they may not.

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Asphalt Plant Pollution: A Public Health Hazard

Road asphalt contains gravel and sand mixed with asphalt cement obtained from crude oil. Arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde, and cadmium are toxic air pollutants emitted in large quantities from asphalt plants. Asphalt cement is a mixture of hydrocarbons including naphtha which contribute to the vaporization of organic compounds at operating temperatures of 300-350 degrees F. Hydrocarbons released into the air by the hot mix asphalt as it is loaded into trucks and hauled from the plant site include volatile organic compounds (VOC) polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). PAH affects reproduction, causes birth defects, and causes harmful effects on skin and the immune system. The US Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PAHs may be carcinogenic to humans.* Stagnant air conditions and inversions increase the level of exposure to the local community.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has released two studies showing the adverse impacts on property values and public health for residents living near operating asphalt plants. A property value study documented losses of up to 56% as a direct result of an asphalt plant. In another study nearly half of the residents report negative impacts on their health after only two years of asphalt plant operations. The door-to-door survey shows that 45% of the residents living within a half mile of a two year old asphalt plant report a deterioration of their health which began after the plant opened. The most frequent problems include high blood pressure (18% of people surveyed), sinus problems (18%), headaches (14%), and shortness of breath (9%).



Photo of an operating Asphalt Plant near Franklin, NC

9/4/15

*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1995. *Toxicological Profile for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service.

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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