

A Quick Guide to Commenting at the Titan Cement Public Hearings

Preparing comments for a public hearing is one of the best ways you can participate in your state and federal regulatory process. Public hearings provide an important tool in gauging either support or opposition for a controversial project. If you don't get to speak, numbers of attendees still count, and you may also submit written comments by November 20, 2009, and they will be considered. A few things to keep in mind as you prepare for the hearing:

- You must sign up to speak BEFORE the hearing begins. There are two hearings. The first is 2 – 5 pm, the second hearing is 6:30 – 9 pm. You will have to sign up for your 3-minute slot BEFORE the hearing begins. The sign up process is first come first serve. The public comment period will begin following a brief overview of the project.
- Be courteous to the public hearing staff. These folks have tough jobs and are there mainly to record citizen comments.
- Start the by introducing yourselves and thanking the hearing officer's the chance for you to make your comments. State where you live.
- When you are introducing yourselves, stress any expertise you might have on the subject or personal knowlegde of the issues.
- Stay on topic! Share personal and local examples of the impact of the issues you came to talk about. Keep your comments brief (you will only have three minutes) and focused. If you have prepared written comments and want to leave them let them know.
- Be a good listener. If the hearing officer asks you any questions try and answer the best you can or simply state you do not know, or the question is beyond your expertise.
- If there is opposition, do not respond to any heckling or negative comments. Keep it professional. Do the same for others.
- Be resolute, but not argumentative. Tell your story, share your passion and conviction why you think Titan is a bad move for our community.
- End the visit on a positive note. Thank the hearing officer for the opportunity to speak.
- Outside the office, quickly jot down notes from the hearing while they are fresh in your mind. The information you collect at the hearing is as important as what you impart.
- Share a copy of your comments—we'd love to post your comments on the stoptitan.org website. You can mail a copy of your comments at: FLCF, PO Box 11067, Wilmington, NC, 28404 or email at: contactus@stoptitan.org.
- Attend the hearing and make sure to sign in, even if you don't want to speak. Huge numbers of concerned citizens matter, even if you don't speak. You also have until Nov. 20th, 2009 to submit your written comments. You can leave them with the hearing staff or send by mail or email.

Comments by mail must go to: Don van der Vaart, Chief, Air Permits Section, NC Division of Air Quality, 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699.

By email: donald.vandervaat@ncdenr.gov

If you have time, please send a copy of your comments to Governor Perdue as well. Her mailing address for the southeast regional office is:

Governor Beverly E. Perdue
233 Middle Street
Suite 211
New Bern 28562

If you send Governor Perdue a copy by email: governor.office@nc.gov

Remember- Speak from your heart, and have fun.