Responses to questions submitted by Gaston County staff related to the Carolina Lithium project and questions pertaining to the August 8th, 2023, public meeting before the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.

We recognize that the majority of the questions from the August 8 meeting relate to the concerns of neighbors regarding potential negative impacts of the Carolina Lithium project and subsequent questions from the Board of Commissioners as to how Piedmont Lithium will address those concerns. We believe that we will contribute tremendously to the region economically, providing jobs and financial prosperity to Gaston County and beyond. However, we understand the concerns that have been raised and recognize that an integrated mining-to-lithium hydroxide operation cannot possibly have ZERO impact on the environment and neighboring community. The project will have an impact, just like every new manufacturing facility, residential community, superstore, or development of ANY kind would. However, we are working diligently to mitigate that impact, using modern technologies, systems, practices, and plans to adhere to modern regulations and community commitments as we design Carolina Lithium to be a responsible, sustainable operation and a good neighbor to nearby residents.

We are making these efforts and commitments because it's the right thing to do, and because we wouldn't choose or be allowed to operate any other way. As a U.S.-based, publicly traded company, we are held to significantly higher standards than other companies in this industry. It should also provide comfort to those with concerns that operating responsibly is also in the best interest of our organization financially. Undue impacts to the environment and the community – "problems" – would also impact our reputation, our business, and our bottom line. Thus, we are highly motivated to operate responsibly and at the highest standards possible in all aspects of our business.

Our intention is to provide transparent responses to the questions and concerns shared on August 8 to best communicate our operational plans and impact-mitigation strategies. It is important to note that as a publicly traded company, all our public disclosures are subject to, and restricted by, federal and state statutes, as well as the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX"), and other regulatory bodies. Accordingly, we are limited in our ability to make forward-looking statements (promises about future actions) or projections. Thus, you will note the use of words and phrases such as "we expect to", "plan to", and "should", rather than "we will". See ***Forward Looking Statements*** *at the end of these responses.*

Additionally, we note that a number of our permit applications for the Carolina Lithium Project remain under review by various state agencies, and thus some details of our plans or operating conditions may be different than our applications according to requirements of permits we may receive in the future.

1. **Tim Leonhardt, 115 George Payseur Rd, Crouse, NC**: Why don't they have a current map of all of the wells of the neighboring landowners other than the maps from 1972 and 2005?

A: *Our map of the wells is based on publicly-available County data and for properties that we own or that we have been allowed access to gain information. The County has indicated that it will conduct a new well survey in our operating area.*

2. **Sandra Foster, 108 Aderholdt Rd, Bessemer City, NC**: Why should Gaston County allow Piedmont Lithium to come into our neighborhood and financially devastate us and leave some families to be homeless or to live with poisons and dangers that are associated with this mine; why should I be financially devastated so they can make billions of dollars?

   A: *We do not expect our operations will damage nearby homes or leave our neighbors "financially devastated, leave families homeless, or force individuals to live with poisons and dangers". We would be happy to speak with anyone who believes they would be negatively impacted to address specific concerns, and we encourage residents to contact us through the outreach programs we have established including by phone, email, or visiting our Cherryville Office using the contact details on our website or at the end of this document.*

   A: *The project studies that have been conducted indicate that we will not change the air quality outside of the permit boundaries, and that we will not change the quality of water in the area. We plan to use modern mining technology, practices, and systems that minimize impact to the environment and neighbors, and adhere to strict standards set by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies.*

   A: *Our focus is on delivering critical resources to the United States supply chain with a project that provides significant economic benefit for the entire community. This includes more than 1,000 new local jobs (428 direct jobs and approximately 600 indirect jobs), $9 million in additional annual tax impact to the County, and direct financial commitments to help improve the well-being of the community.*

3. **Brian Harper, 1953 Hephzibah Church Rd, Bessemer City, NC**: How can Piedmont say there is no danger to homes, businesses and the environment when they do not know who or how the blasting will be done; will Piedmont tell us tonight the type and amount of explosives they will be using?

   A: *Blasting at Carolina Lithium will be done using modern practices, which are far more advanced than historical practices. Very little "explosive" will be used. In modern blasting, the primary agent is a liquified product, called an emulsion, that can be safely transported on the highway as an oxidizer no different than mineral oil. The emulsion is activated only when loaded into the holes at the time of blasting. All blasting companies in this area utilize emulsion as their primary blasting agent, and it is safely utilized in a number of industries – from construction to quarrying and mining – on a daily basis in North Carolina and across the United States.*
   A: *Modern blasting is highly controlled using electronic detonation to maximize the efficiency of each blast. Every blast is custom engineered based on unique variables, such as its location, geologic conditions, orientation to neighbors, and more to ensure safe, compliant operations that minimize disturbances for those nearby. The amount of emulsion used varies based on size and location of the blast.*

   A: *Our blasting will be conducted according to state mining regulations and federal recommendations. It will be designed for vibration levels within the limits of the "Z-Curve" established by the US Bureau of Mines (USBM). More than 40 years of data illustrate that staying within the USBM limits causes no damage to offsite structures. Blasts are being planned to be well within these standards – with most expected to be lower than 50% of allowable levels.*

   A: *We will collect data from each blast, assess our impact, and adjust plans to help ensure compliance and minimize disruptions throughout the life of mining activities.*

   A*: We will be required under state regulations to record each blast using seismographs, and these data may be provided to the state upon request.*

A: *Further, we will regularly and openly communicate with neighbors about the blasting schedule through several means, including posting on our website, signage, emails, and recorded phone messages.*

4. **Locke Bell, 534 Whitesides Rd, Crouse, NC**: If a resident loses their well due to the mining process…and Piedmont supplies water until they can provide a permanent source.
    - How do you wash your hair with bottled water?
    - How do you hook a tanker to water line if they bring one in?
    - How are you going to wash clothes?
    - Would like them to explain how a 7-year-old use bottled water to flush the toilet

A: *We are committed to the diligent protection of local water resources and have conducted modeling studies to understand the potential impact of the mining operation on local well water availability. Based on the results of the modeling and understanding of the local hydrogeology, we believe that the project will not cause widespread drying up of wells.*

A: *There are a range of variables that will specifically determine how the mining may impact individual wells, such as well depth and location, placement of the pump, and condition of the well. However, the results indicate that the number of wells we are likely to impact by a drawdown of more than 12 inches may be fairly limited. According to our most recent modeling, only 10 parcels beyond our boundary that we do not own were indicated to potentially experience this type of drawdown. Results showed that other wells could experience an impact between 1 and 12 inches, but whether that drawdown would be noticeable or detrimental to the property owner would depend upon the specific conditions of the well. We will have monitoring wells around our property boundaries to allow us to monitor water levels and alert us to potential impacts before they reach wells beyond our boundary.*

A: *If the project affects the availability of water in a nearby well, we would work with that neighbor to help ensure their access to water. As part of our state mining permit process, we have already developed proactive mitigation plans to address any impacted wells. These plans include: 1) drilling a new or improved well or 2) providing access to municipal water supplies. Piedmont also would make a payment to the impacted homeowner, which could be used to offset the cost of municipal water.*

A: *We plan to provide short-term water supplies until a longer-term solution is in place. At the very outset, we would supply bottled water and, if needed, arrange for a water tanker that could fill an onsite tank or connect directly to a well water line, which would eliminate the need to use bottled water for showers, toilets, or other household requirements.*

A: *Piedmont is already working with the County to* ***complete design engineering for the potential waterline extension. We have also agreed to fund the construction of the waterline extension.*** *As Piedmont will be a large municipal water customer ourselves, this water line extension would need to be in place prior to the beginning of project operations and would provide a foundational water line around our project property with stubs that would facilitate the connection to neighbors.*

A: *Our state mining permit is expected to dictate the protocols for how and when to respond to facilitate a timely remediation of an impacted well. Further, we plan to work with the County to develop a program to support this remediation, including pre-arranging for contractors that would be readily available for both municipal water connections and well remediation services.*

5. **Lisa Stroup, 1402 Dameron Rd, Bessemer City, NC**: The project's scope, shape and size has substantially changed from 2021 to now; given these changes, what regulatory permits have been amended or are required to be added to reflect these changes.

   A: *No, the project scope, size and shape have not changed since the state mining permit application was submitted in August 2021. There are 1,548 acres within the project boundary, as described by the permit application.*

6. How has the public been kept abreast and then allowed the availability to be able to comment on these permits?

   A: *The mine permit application, three related rounds of questions from DEMLR, and subsequent responses from Piedmont Lithium have been made available online through DEQ's website. Public comment has been allowed through DEMLR's process, including a public meeting that was held in November 2021 at the Gaston County Courthouse. DEMLR has continuously been open to comment on these matters. Other pending permits (e.g. air, wastewater) will be made available by their respective, responsible agencies and there will be an opportunity for the public to comment.*

7. We have spotty and unstable cell phone capabilities and pretty much non-existence broadband internet; citizens and employees will be at immediate risk if something is not put in place prior to any groundbreaking that establishes a stable cell phone signal and internet - communication cannot be cut off from those in that area.

   A: *A full telecoms package is being planned as part of the project, which will help improve access for nearby neighbors.*

8. The air quality permit and PSD application Piedmont submitted states that they were required to notify agricultural producers their emissions would affect crop yields – what crops will this affect?

   A: *Air quality modeling was done as part of the air permit application. These models must be validated by the North Carolina Department of Air Quality. Once validated, the specifics of the emission profiles outside of the permit boundary will be communicated, as required, to the public.*

9. How will it affect them [area crops] and how are you planning to notify the agricultural community?

   A: *Based on water and air quality modeling, we do not believe there will be any material impact on the quality of water or the air outside of the permit boundary, therefore, not affecting area crops.*

   A: *The water and air permits we expect to receive will have specific limits and monitoring requirements. If we were not to meet our limits, there are reporting requirements to the responsible agency, and, depending on the impact, any area impacted would be properly notified.*

10. **Bryson Leonhardt (15-years-old), 115 George Payseur Rd, Crouse, NC: I d**o not think it's fair that my little sister and I must worry about the creek we play in will be polluted by hazardous chemicals?

    A: *Based on water and air quality modeling, we do not expect our operation to have any material impact on the quality of water or the air outside of the permit boundary. Further, the creek near this property is upstream of the project, which should further mitigate the homeowner's concerns.*

11. Will we even be able to catch fish safely anymore?

    A: *Yes. The project is not expected to materially change the quality of the water or inhabitants in the creeks. Water quality will be regulated by North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.*

12. Will we be forced to stay inside in front of a screen because of the blasting noise and dust?

    A: *No. Dust will be mitigated through many methods and systems, including enclosed conveyor belts, reduced use of haul trucks, and dust suppression techniques.*

    A: *The mining industry has advanced significantly in recent years, including with regard to blasting. Blasting engineers are able to be very adept at minimizing the perception of blasting. Today's blasting fractures the bedrock by just a few feet, producing a safe, highly targeted and coordinated blast that lasts only a few seconds and is strategically designed to absorb impact to mitigate residual effects. Computer and chemical technologies allow for precision and efficiency. Much like noise cancellation headphones, we can design our blasts to create a cancelling effect, thereby reducing vibrations.*

    A: *We are responsible for following regulations, and we are planning extra measures to minimize the perception of blasting noise and vibrations. The United States Bureau of Mines (USBM) has established the Z-Curve, the recommended limit for vibration levels. Our blasts are being designed to be well within this guidance, with most vibration levels expected to be less than 50% of the allowable regulatory level for North Carolina.*

    A: *Blasting typically will take place once or twice per day as needed and depending on scheduling requirements. We intend to communicate with nearby residents about blasting activities, sharing a regular blasting schedule on our website and providing a recorded message for neighbors along with emails and onsite signs. Per Gaston County ordinances no blasting will be conducted until one hour after sunrise, within one hour of sunset, or on the following days: Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving Day.*

13. How much of the woods around my house will I be able to enjoy because of the destruction Piedmont Lithium is trying to bring to my home?

    A: *The wood line around this property is not owned by Piedmont Lithium, so access to the woods would be controlled by your neighbors.*

14. **Jessica Leonhardt, 115 George Payseur Rd, Crouse, NC**: Piedmont Lithium clarified to Mining Commission their mitigation plan for residential location and proximity to the mines can take up to 45 days to build a new line or to connect to municipal water. How can you drill a well in 45 days if all of the local wells have run dry?

    A: *See our response to question 4. While our mitigation plan allows for up to 45 days to remediate a well, we plan to help establish a program with the County that includes protocols and contractors to ensure a timely response.*

15. What happens if they [Piedmont Lithium] drag their feet just like they have done with everything else they have been asked to do? [with regards to digging new wells]

    A: *See our response to question 4.*

16. They quoted that in the future, our property could be used for future manufacturing developments, parks, trails, greenways, recreation areas, commercial developments and solar developments noticeably missing from that list are family homes, residents, and rural farming. Because they know the land will be unfit for habitation for hundreds of years moving forward. instead of the beautiful pastoral views of life sustaining crops that we now have, we are left with manmade and filled craters; per their application, a toxic leak of arsenic infused unusable water and piles of waste rock; how does any of this in focus on the safety, health and well-being of the community?

    A: *The land will not be "unfit for habitation." The mining component of the operation is only 25% of the 1,548 acres within the proposed project site – approximately 385 acres. Due to the topography of reclaimed pits, typical of quarrying and mining, these sites may be repurposed for parks, trails, recreation, redevelopment and so forth (see photos below). The project plan calls for waste rock stockpiles (excavated rock that has no commercial value) to be progressively reclaimed by covering it with soil and planting grass and native vegetation.*

    A: *However, the remaining approximately 1,100 acres of the project site, including wooded and other buffers, the conversion and concentrator facilities, administrative facilities, could be repurposed or reclaimed for a wide variety of purposes, including residential development. Note that we are discussing with the County a commitment to remove the conversion facility as part of reclamation if it is no longer needed in 30 years, if the building is not repurposed.*

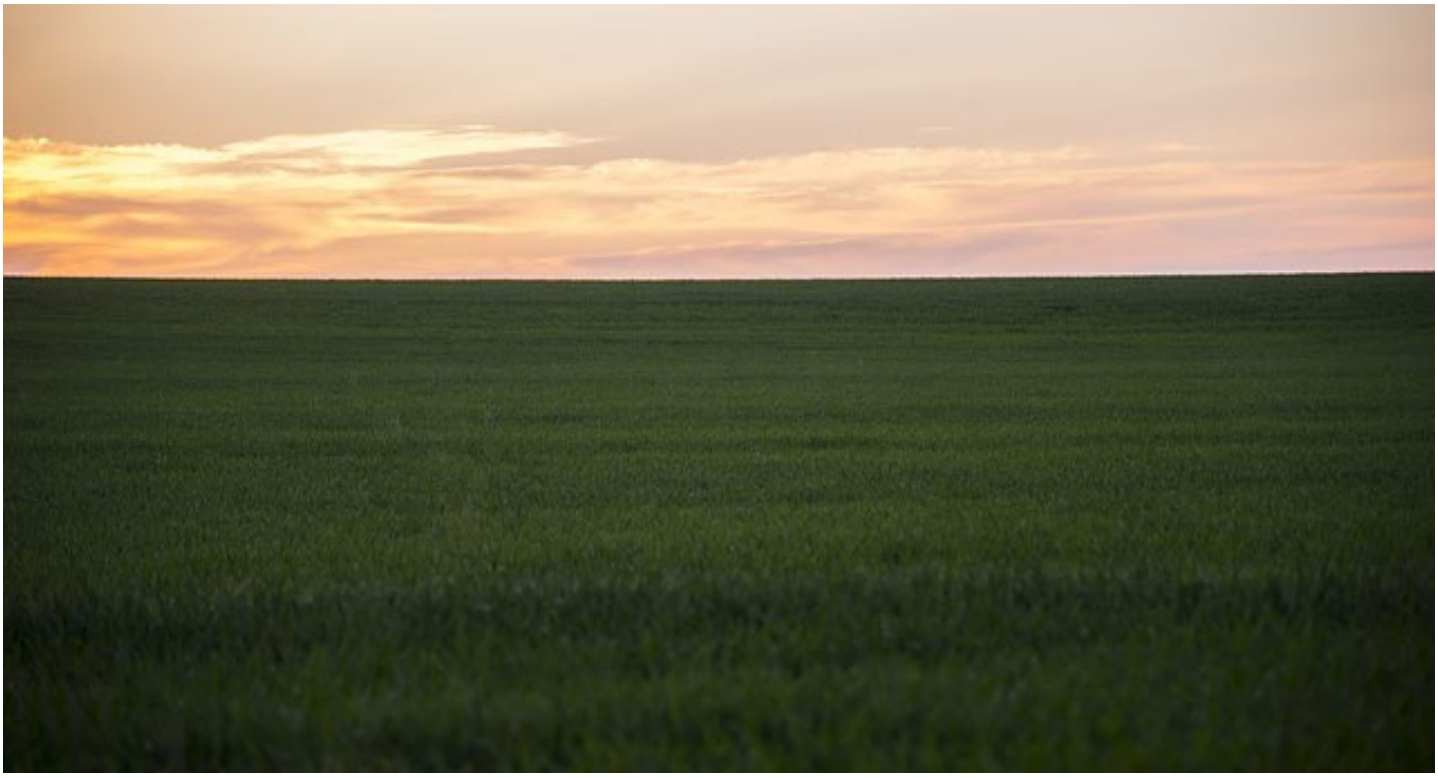
    A: *We also disagree with the assertion that there will be a "toxic leak of arsenic." We are designing the project to manage and control water on the site in all aspects, including any engagement with naturally occurring arsenic. We are working with DEMLR to develop an environmental mitigation plan related to the waste rock stockpiles, which would have to be approved as part of our state mining permit.*

    A: *Mine reclamation strategies have evolved dramatically in recent years, going far beyond simple restoration. Closed mines in North Carolina, across the United States, and around the world are being used for public parks, forests, and even farmlands.*

    See subsequent page for examples.

The Martin Marietta Park in New Bern, North Carolina was a limestone quarry for more than 40 years. It was initially reclaimed to facilitate wildlife habitat restoration. However, today the park is a regional attraction for recreation.

Reclamation transformed the CalPortland Glacier Sand and Gravel Mine in Steilacoom, Washington. It is now the Chambers Bay Golf Course, the home of the 2015 U.S. Open.



Laurel Aggregates, Inc. reclaimed its Morganton, West Virginia mining site, restoring the land's original contour and improving the watershed flow of the Crooked Run Stream, which intersected the property. The reclaimed vegetative cover is more productive today than it was prior to the mining operation.

17. **Tim Leonhardt, 115 George Payseur Rd, Crouse, NC**: When will Piedmont begin telling the truth about where the wells are around the properties and where the closest neighbors are?

    A: *We have consistently made the Carolina Lithium project map available and offered to answer any questions from neighbors. Information regarding the registered wells is also readily available from the County. Our map of the wells is based on publicly available County data and for properties that we own or that we have been allowed access to gain information. The public data does not include unregistered wells; however, the County has indicated that it will conduct a new well survey in this area.*

18. Why Don't they [Piedmont Lithium] have a current map of all the wells of the neighboring landowners other than the maps from 1972 and 2005?

    A: *Our map of the wells is based on publicly available County data and for properties that we own or that we have been allowed access to gain information. The County has indicated that it will conduct a new well survey in this area.*

19. My well is very shallow (at 50 feet) is not going to last long and they would know this if they would come and talk to the people instead of sending cookies and saying, hey, come to our office; if they cannot get their public records right, why should we as landowners believe anything that they say?

A: *The public records on wells are maintained by the County, and we have no control over those records or the process by which they are maintained. In relation to your well, we would be happy to understand its design and specifications, your distance from our proposed operations, and discuss with you how our project could impact your specific location. We keep a record of neighbors we have spoken to as well as neighbors who refuse to meet.*

A: *We have conducted two outreach programs to our nearby neighbors encouraging them to visit our offices and to contact us if they would like to meet to discuss our proposed project. We have sent two such invitations rather than showing up uninvited to a neighbor's home. The cookies noted were one such campaign that we sent along with a written invitation distributed to 500 of the neighbors closest to the proposed project, inviting them to meet with us, call, or email with any questions or concerns. Many neighbors have reached out to us to meet or talk, and we've had many constructive conversations. We would hope that any neighbor concerned about a shallow well would accept the invitation to meet and talk. We would be happy to do so.*

20. **Rich Pembleron, 927 Long Shoals Rd**, **Lincolnton, NC**: Piedmont intends to leave behind a mountain of rock over 280' high about 3 miles from Cherryville; how many hundreds of years will County citizens have to look at that mess once Piedmont has taken their money and moved away?

A: *Our progressive reclamation plan includes covering our waste rock pile with soil and planting the slopes with native grass and vegetation. We believe the result will be a feature which closely resembles the topography of the surrounding area, similar to the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, which is in fact a waste rock stockpile from prior lithium mining operations.*

As noted previously, mining reclamation activities have evolved dramatically in recent years, with several closed mines throughout North Carolina, the U.S., and the world now being used as golf courses, farmland, and recreation spaces. See question 16 for additional information. Our goal is to successfully repurpose the Carolina Lithium site in a way that best benefits the community.

These photos provide a unique example of a reclaimed mining area: Northumberlandia in New Castle, England, formerly the home of the Shotton Surface Mine. This piece of art was built with materials excavated from the coal mine and is set in a 46-acre community park, with free public access and four miles of footpaths on and around the landform.

21. Will Cherryville citizens get naming rights to that mountain?

A: *As noted, the rock pile and pits will not be a mountain after reclamation activities are complete. (See questions 16 and 20 for additional information on reclamation.)*

22. Piedmont burnt down 30 homes around me and goes to Belmont and states it will help build one habitat house for a needy family; what about the other 29 families with no place to live?

A: *None of the families who sold their properties to Piedmont Lithium were made homeless. They were paid fairly, and in most cases, more than fair market value for their properties. These property owners were able to buy new properties and homes. And, for example, one family was able to use the funds to fulfill their dream of moving to the beach.*

A: *All homeowners were offered the opportunity to move their home, which some of them did. In cases where homes were not transportable or the homeowners had no interest in transporting, we donated these homes to regional and local fire departments for lifesaving, live-burn training, which is conducted in a safe, highly controlled environment. We have also partnered with emergency instructors, SWAT team members, and police officers to provide realistic environments where first responders can practice techniques and skills required to save lives.*

A: *Earl Withers, a live burn trainer for Gaston College and the Gastonia and Dallas Fire Departments, has underscored the importance of these opportunities: "This program is saving lives in our community. It's helping us better prepare our firefighters by putting them in real-life scenarios that teach them how to safely and effectively fight fires. The controlled, supervised experience is a critical part of instruction, and we are incredibly thankful for the partnership with Piedmont Lithium."*

A: *Lastly, these homes, which were on properties owned by Piedmont Lithium were not inhabited. They were empty, and materials of value were removed from the home and donated to neighbors as well as Cherryville Area Ministries. Unusable furniture in these homes also have been donated to support investigation training for Gastonia Fire Investigation Task Force and the Gaston County Fire Marshall's Office.*

23. Piedmont's air quality application states it intends to operate 24/hours/day - 365/days/year; is this true?

A: *Yes, like many manufacturing and quarrying operations, Carolina Lithium will operate 24 hours, seven days a week. However, certain activities will only take place during certain hours of the day. For example, no blasting will be conducted until one hour after sunrise or within one hour of sunset. Further, we will not blast on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving Day. Preventative maintenance periods will also require multiple operations to shut down as needed.*

24. **Warren Snowdon, 611 Aderholdt Rd. Lincolnton, NC**: Two years later, still waiting for Piedmont Lithium to tell community how they intend to be a good neighbor?

    A: *We are designing Carolina Lithium to mitigate impact to the environment and the surrounding community as much as possible. As part of our commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen and neighbor, we are planning to use a range of modern technologies, practices, and systems to lessen the impact – from modern blasting techniques that should minimize noise and vibrations, to enclosed, electric-powered conveyor systems to reduce heavy haul truck traffic, dust and noise, to our innovative pressure leaching lithium hydroxide conversion process that removes the use of chemicals found in traditional lithium manufacturing.*

    A: *In addition to planning to operate responsibly, we know that we need to continue to share information and open the lines of communication between Piedmont and our neighbors. We plan to hold town hall meetings in the fourth quarter of this year and will continue to meet individually with neighbors in their homes or at our Cherryville office, and to participate in community presentations and events.*

    A: *We're also demonstrating our intentions by contributing financially to the wellbeing of the community through our Power for Life foundation and through a range of sponsorships in activities and events that support the betterment of the region. And we believe we will be a good neighbor through our expected economic impact, with hundreds of well-paying, direct jobs, more than a thousand indirect jobs, millions in tax revenue, and billions in economic output. (See our response to question 2 for additional details on economic impact.)*

25. How are they [Piedmont Lithium] going to protect the citizens?

    A: *See our response to question 24.*

26. They [Piedmont Lithium] don't have an NC mining permit, proper zoning, no PSD air permit or no site plan approval; they are years away from having the necessary utilities (electric and gas) to service this site. [True or False, explain why]

    A: *As we have stated previously, subject to the review and approval of various agencies, regulatory or elected bodies, our goal is to obtain the necessary project approvals for Carolina Lithium in 2024, begin construction in 2025, and commence production in 2027. This timeline would include the installation of necessary utilities prior to the start of production.*

    A: *We have submitted a request for service to Duke Energy, which is currently undertaking engineering studies associated with providing electrical service to the project. Additionally, we are working with Gaston County to fund the detailed engineering work required to deliver water and wastewater services to the project. Lastly, we have communicated with natural gas service providers regarding our project and they have indicated they will engage with us upon receipt of permits and that they do not expect gas service to be a long lead item for the project.*

    A: *We are working to obtain our state mining permit, which is a complex process given our plans to build Carolina Lithium as one of the world's only fully integrated operations of its kind. We applied for our state mining permit with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division on Energy, Minerals, and Land Resources (DEMLR) in August 2021 and are currently responding to a request for additional information on our environmental monitoring and mitigation plans.*

A: *The U.S. is among the world's strictest regulators of industrial and mining activities. Organizations like DEMLR – and many others – have an important responsibility to make sure operations meet standards and regulations to protect environmental resources and the safety of communities.*

A: *We understand DEMLR's desire to be thorough in the state mining permit process, and, likewise, we expect to be diligent in our response to this additional information request, which is due by November 26, 2023. We plan to respond as timely as possible with the goal of obtaining the necessary material permits, including our air and wastewater permits, in 2024.*

27. They [Piedmont Lithium] don't have a NC Geological License; the NC Geological Board does not hold a license for Piedmont Lithium or any of its geologists. Is this necessary?

A: *In North Carolina, this type of licensing is not required for a private mineral exploration project like Carolina Lithium. Geologists and corporations are required to register with the North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists when they provide geology services to the public, which we are not doing. However, we employ geologists and utilize consultants who maintain appropriate qualifications, given their respective areas of work.*

A: *Our Chief Geologist Lamont Leatherman has worked in exploration for more than 30 years and has the required lithium pegmatite experience necessary to be deemed a qualified person with membership status through the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME). SME membership is specifically focused on mineral exploration and mine site geology – disciplines that are key to our proposed Carolina Lithium project. Our consultants responsible for certifying the company's Security and Exchange Commission reserve filings are also registered members of SME. And our consultants at HDR Engineering, Inc. of the Carolinas, a global consulting firm, are licensed by the state of North Carolina (License Number: C-503).*

A: *As a U.S. Public Company we are required to report our mineral resources and mineral reserves in accordance with the requirements of Regulation S-K Subpart 1300 ("S-K 1300"). Under S-K 1300 the technical report summaries that we completed for the Carolina Lithium Project must be signed by professionals who meet the requirements of a Qualified Person under S-K 1300 guidelines. Piedmont has employees and consultants who meet these requirements.*

28. We, are the immediate neighbors to the east, have not been contacted; every time they burn a house, they don't warn us; we can smell smoke for hours; it blows from west to east; we have crops, trees, wildlife, kids and our health and they don't reach out to us.

A: *Typically, we notify neighbors within a mile of the scheduled burn so that they're aware of the fire trucks and aren't alarmed by the smoke.*

A: *From start to finish, the live-burn training is coordinated responsibly among state and local regulators, Piedmont Lithium's property management, and first responders to ensure the safety of our neighbors and the environment. Before a training exercise is conducted, firefighters work diligently to ensure live-fire exercises meet regulatory requirements. Firefighters begin the safety and approval process by thoroughly performing testing with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, sending multiple samples to regulators to ensure homes are free of asbestos. From there, samples are sent to the North Carolina Department of Air Quality for further review and approval. Subsequently, the training dates are approved by the Gaston County Fire Marshalls Office.*

A: *After training sessions are complete, firefighters monitor the sites to ensure fires are completely out. Piedmont Lithium then reclaims the area, cleaning the site, removing debris, and planting native grass.*

29. When Keith Phillips spoke two years ago in this room to these citizens, he said things were going to be different and that Piedmont Lithium would be happy to come every month and hold informational meetings, if needed; two years later, no meetings, no answers, and he's not even here tonight. Why?

A: *For the last two years, the County has asked us to work with the staff to continue developing our plans and come back at a later date when they invited us. We were subsequently invited to the meeting on Aug. 8 and asked to address technical matters for which Keith would not have been a proper respondent.*

A: *We have engaged with the community in a number of ways over the past two years and have learned that the vast majority of community members who have an interest in our project and want to discuss their questions or concerns in a constructive manner prefer to do so in a private setting. These conversations usually occur over their kitchen table or at our office on Main Street in Cherryville, which is open to the public. We provide contact information on social media for anyone who would like to call or email us, and we regularly speak with community members via these avenues.*

A: *We have also sent mailers on two occasions in the past year to nearly 500 neighbors in the vicinity of our project site, inviting them to meet with us. As a result, we've had several dozen meetings and phone calls with local community members to explain our plans for Carolina Lithium, answer questions, and develop relationships. In December of last year, we opened our community engagement office in the heart of downtown Cherryville and have spoken at numerous meetings as members of local Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce, and business associations as well as at public meetings with the Gaston County Commission, City of Cherryville City Council, and the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR).*

A: *Regular meetings are held with Gaston County staff to answer questions, make plans for the project, and develop strong working relationships. We have also hosted several lithium excursion events at our exploration office in Cherryville to provide members of the community – including business leaders, municipal leaders and professionals within relevant city and county departments, political staff members, and university researchers – with a hands-on opportunity to learn about our project plans. Since June 2023, we have hosted six such events and intend to host at least three more before the end of the year.*

A: *As we progress in the process for our state mining permit with DEMLR, we plan to host community town halls beginning in Q4 2023. We're also evaluating additional opportunities for 2024, where project neighbors could learn more about our plans and provide feedback.*

A: *In addition to these avenues, we also participate in a range of community events and engagements that allow us to further our relationships with project neighbors, local business professionals and owners, and community leaders. We are committed to meaningful engagement with our community in Cherryville and Gaston County, and we have enjoyed getting to know many individuals and businesses both in a 1:1 setting and at larger events.*

30. In their [Piedmont Lithium] May 2023 presentation to their investors, they said this will be a $456M steady state project with a 27% annual return and a short project pay back of 3.5 years -- pretty lucrative; yet, they continue to cut corners wherever they get a chance; when asked how they were going to discharge water from the site, they had four options and have chosen the least expensive option but the most dangerous for the citizens; why does Piedmont Lithium continue to not provide answers and choose profits over the environment, the community and our citizens; why does Piedmont Lithium continue to choose not to be a good neighbor, why?

    A: *We strongly disagree that we are "cutting corners." Instead, we're investing millions of dollars to plan one of the world's most sustainable lithium hydroxide operations, with modern technologies – including our innovative pressure leaching lithium conversion process, state-of-the-art blasting techniques, and an enclosed conveyor belt system – to reduce impacts for neighbors and support a responsible operation.*

    A: *We evaluated four options for discharging stormwater and water from the pits – all four of which we believe would be acceptable, viable, and safe. We selected direct discharge as the most appropriate solution for the requirements of this project, as well as the safest and most environmentally acceptable solution. The water that would be discharged is naturally occurring stormwater and groundwater that does not touch the conversion process.*

    A: *While it is correct that we selected the option that is the least expensive, we disagree that it should be characterized as dangerous. The safety of this solution can be confirmed by NCDEQ as the plan is subject to permit review and must be approved before implementation.*

31. **Mr. Bobby Tedder, 221 Forest Dellinger Rd., Bessemer City, NC:** One thing may can stop this mine if this is true, supposedly on Hastings Rd where it meets Heziphah Church Rd., if you look north there is a clump of trees there; I have been told my entire life that's an Indian graveyard; if this is so, it needs to be checked into. [has this been checked?]

    A: *We performed detailed archaeological studies of the site in 2018 and 2021 through an independent consultant specializing in this area to understand the historic context of the properties that constitute the Carolina Lithium project. These studies were reviewed and accepted by the North Carolina State Historical Preservation Office. No gravesites have been identified in the area referenced at the intersection of Hastings Rd and Heziphah Church Rd.*

    A: *Our understanding is that there is a local Native American gravesite in the area, but it is not on our property.*

32. The Columbia Climate School used a large amounts of water I do not think it was specifically how much water was used…per ton related to pollution, potential increase in carbon dioxide, mineral waste, increased respiratory problems, alternate hydrological cycle and atmospheric system; the concentration of lithium reduced or inhibited growth causes necrosis on older leaves on trees, reduces chlorophyl which reduces plant shoots and roots biomass, cause less purified oxygen to breathe; necrosis is scientific term for death of plant tissues, other words it kills trees; if anyone is old enough to remember when all the trees were dead around Bessemer City, they said it's not the mine. Was it the mining that caused the trees to die around Bessemer City mine?

    A: *This information is in reference to a brine evaporation project, which is very different than our hard rock production plans for Carolina Lithium. It is our understanding that the vegetation that was killed at Bessemer City was potentially the result of a chlorine plant located on the project site for their metal conversion process, which we will not have.*

33. There's 15 tons of CO_2 emitted into the air. What's CO_2, is it good for you, nope may include headache, dizziness, pins and needles feeling breathing problems, sweating, increased heart rate, high blood pressure, coma, asphyxia and convulsions, displaces normal oxygen in the breathing air. Will your process or mining cause this C02 to be released into the air?

A: *CO_2 is carbon dioxide, and it is a natural product of any combustion activity; therefore, our process will release carbon dioxide. However, we plan to have proper monitoring and controls in place to help ensure the safety of the environment, our employees, and the community – and that we operate within the regulatory limits and our permit specifications.*

A: *Modeling conducted during our permitting process indicates that there will be no material change to the air conditions outside of the permit boundaries.*

34. You spoke about the slurry but where is it going; our water treatment plants cannot handle all of this slurry and there will be tons of it; the dirty secret is it disturbs the soil water table, causes damage to local ecosystems. Is this True?

A: *No, we will not have wet tailings or a "slurry." In our concentrator operations, we will dewater our tailings to a low moisture content. This sand-like crushed rock material will go back into the pits in accordance with plans that would be approved as part of our mine permit.*

A: *We will not have a tailings dam or impoundment of any kind. In our chemical operations, we also will dewater the tailings from the pressure leach process, and these non-hazardous materials will be disposed of offsite.*

A: *We will not discharge slurry to municipal wastewater since we will not have a slurry. Wastewater that we plan to deliver to Two Rivers wastewater treatment facilities will first be pre-treated onsite in order to meet specifications that will be provided by Two Rivers and agreed between Piedmont and Two Rivers Utilities. We've had extensive conversations with Two Rivers about their capabilities for water and sewer and collaborated closely with them to develop our plans.*

35. ***Chile's [Salar de Atacama]*** mine caused the region to lose 65% of that region's water. Chile has the world's largest lithium reserves. Is this true?

A: *That region of Chile utilizes brine evaporation, which is known for affecting surrounding water reserves and is particularly threatening to water resources in dry regions. However, we cannot conclusively say that the brine evaporation at Salar de Atacama led to that amount of water loss. That figure stems from a simulated study, which has been questioned, as it did not have exact inputs and outputs, nor did it factor in additional variables that could have contributed to water loss, including climate, age of water, or meteorological conditions, like drought.*

A: *Our project is not a brine operation. We are focused on hard rock mining, which is the production of lithium hydroxide from spodumene ore and uses less land and less water than brine operations. Hard rock mining is required for efficient production of lithium hydroxide, and brine operations can only initially produce lithium carbonate, which then requires additional resources and processing to convert the material into lithium hydroxide.*

A: *The Carolina Tin Spodumene Belt, which spans Gaston and Cleveland counties, is the largest known pegmatite resource in the United States in terms of size and infrastructure. Pegmatite is lithium-bearing rock, and the Carolina Tin Spodumene Belt could contain more than three times the known lithium ore reserves in the United States, making it critical to developing a domestic supply chain and national energy security. Albemarle Corporation, which focuses on brine operations in other locations, has announced plans to open mining operations in Kings Mountain, further underscoring the value of both hard rock mining and the Carolina Tin Spodumene Belt.*

36. Lithium batteries also cause air contamination to the air and soil. [is this true?]

A: *No. Electric vehicles have zero emissions and lithium batteries are recyclable. Most of the minerals that comprise batteries can be recovered for lithium-ion battery recycling, including lithium. By recycling lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other battery components, mineral processing helps further reduce the environmental impact of electric vehicles by reducing landfill waste and keeping these critical minerals in use for future needs.*

37. Toxicity of lithium is weakness, worsens tremors and things like that, poor concentration, and diarrhea. [Are these symptoms caused by exposure to lithium?]

A: *Lithium toxicity is not a health concern related to our project. Lithium toxicity is a term that is used in the medical community when a person takes too much medication containing lithium. Lithium toxicity does not occur from exposure to lithium-bearing minerals that exist naturally in the environment nor is it a consequence of the production of lithium hydroxide. Lithium, when ingested in proper quantities and form, is a medication that has been approved for treatment of certain conditions.*

38. I understand that if this dust escapes to the atmosphere it is explosive and if there is enough moisture in the air and humidity there is a possibility it can explode.

A: *You are referring to lithium metal, which is highly reactive and flammable. We are not producing or engaging with lithium metal. Lithium hydroxide is* ***not*** *flammable or explosive; it is a salt and can be treated just like any other non-hazardous, non-explosive material.*

39. In a presentation, PL gave this Board in July on July 20, 2021, PL promised to be “open and transparent” and said, “we are proud of our project and believe the more people learn about it the more they will like it.” Based on those promises I would like to ask that PL make the following information publicly available online with a printed copy at the Gaston County Public Library:

    - Tonight’s presentation.
    - All documents you have submitted to the State or Federal Government related to required permits for this project.
    - All of the studies you have referenced in this presentation.

A: *Our August 8 presentation to the Gaston County Commission is available on our website.*

A: *The documents we have submitted to the state and federal government related to our permits are also available online with the respective agencies and will be made available via a dedicated DropBox link.*

A: *We are currently compiling all the studies that were referenced in our Aug. 8 presentation and expect to make them available along with a copy of our August 8 presentation at the Gastonia County Public Library at 1555 E Garrison Blvd and at our Cherryville office at 116 E Main Street, Suite 100.*

40. Will PL commit to holding town hall meetings to answer questions from citizens? These were mentioned in the July 20, 2021 presentation but I checked your website and found no mention of town hall meetings.

A: *Yes, we are committed to holding town hall meetings beginning in Q4. However, in talking with community members and neighbors, we found that most people interested in a productive conversation wanted to have them over the kitchen table, not in a group setting with people who may have opposing viewpoints. We've been conducting these smaller meetings for the last two years, as well as sharing information through phone calls, social media, and information shared with the media and at events. (See our response to question 24 for additional information.)*

Gaston County would also like to see written responses to the questions provided below. Some but not all these same questions were asked during the last Gaston County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

41. We have seen maps showing the primary mine, but you now own or control over twice that many acres – about 3600 total acres, including several non-contiguous tracts of land. Is it your intention to acquire all the land between the mine and those disconnected tracts?

    A: *As we strive to be a significant provider of lithium resources for the U.S. supply chain, we would like to continue to be a consolidator of potential lithium-bearing properties in the Carolina Tin-Spodumene Belt. Our interest is to work with property owners who are interested in working with us, especially in areas that we think have the potential to contain lithium. Our plans will evolve as our understanding of the resource potential of our properties improves. We can't say at this time to what extent this might result in 'closing of gaps' in our land position as that depends on agreements with willing property owners.*

    A: *Some of the tracts that we own that are not connected were acquired for exploration drilling. As our operations progress, we would like to explore further and potentially expand the life of our operations.*

42. Are you actively looking for more land to expand beyond the area that contains 3,600 acres?

    A: *We are always open to discussions with any interested property owner who might like to do business with us. In certain areas, we continue to proactively reach out to property owners to gauge their interest in entering into an agreement with Piedmont Lithium.*

    A: *Currently, we are not doing any exploration work in the area.*

43. Is the bottom line that you'd like to buy all the land you can in the tin spodumene belt?

    A: *We have been working over the past seven years to build our land position within the Tin-Spodumene Belt. Speaking plainly, yes, we would like to continue to consolidate property that we believe could have lithium potential.*

    A: *There are more lithium mineral resources within our current permit boundary than the defined ore reserves that represent the 11.5 years of mining. However, we believe that mining activities could potentially extend beyond that window one day. We cannot speak to what that may look like, because the life-of-mine window is heavily influenced by the quantity and quality of the mineral reserves present in a deposit, along with various technical, economic, and regulatory factors.*

44. If this initial project is approved, is Gaston County then going to be asked to approve a mining operation 2 or 3 times larger than what is currently being proposed?

    A*: If we wanted to expand beyond the current project boundary, yes, we would have to come before the Gaston County Commissioners again.*

A: *We have defined 36.7 million metric tons of mineral resources at a grade of 1.07% Li_2O within the current permit boundary, of which 18.3 million metric tons have been converted to mineral reserves. The mineral reserves currently define our 11.5-year mine life; however, we will continue to work to convert mineral resources to mineral reserves to extend the life of our operations.*

A: *We believe that these reserves can be increased over time, but there are other resources identified within the Carolina Tin-Spodumene Belt. We are also designing our chemical conversion plant for a 30-year design life. It is possible that we would look to modify our permit boundaries in the future for two reasons 1) to expand the areas that we may want to mine in order to extend our mine life and provide raw material supply for our chemical operations and 2) to return property back into potential alternate uses once mining has been completed and progressive reclamation of the area has been completed.*

45. And a mining permit from the state would be easier to obtain for the expansion of an existing mine, wouldn't it?

A: *DEMLR regards each application separately and thoroughly and has an important responsibility to ensure the safety of communities and the environment through regulatory processes. We cannot say whether it would be any easier to obtain a modified permit.*

46. Would you agree to terms in any sort of agreement reached with the county to limit the scope of this project to the area you are currently seeking the mining permit?

A: *We would not want to be limited to the current proposed mining permit boundary. We have already defined lithium resources in other areas of the Carolina Tin-Spodumene Belt that we believe have tremendous value.*

A: *We would have to discuss any project terms within a Community Development Agreement negotiation.*

47. Do you realize that you are asking us to convert several thousands of acres of our tax base to a short-term use that will, very soon, be taxed as worthless, non-income producing land?

A: *The Carolina Lithium project is expected to generate exponentially more tax value than the current value – potentially one thousand years' worth of taxes in 20-30 years. The land that Piedmont owns currently provides* ***$185,000*** *annually in property taxes, whereas the project is projected to generate nearly* ***$9 million*** *annually to Gaston County via property taxes and taxes related to the expected Carolina Lithium employee base. This is in addition to the greater economic impact of the project, which is expected to generate nearly* ***$4 billion*** *in economic output in just the first 5 years of operation. Further, Piedmont has offered to provide Gaston County an annual shared-value financial commitment for 20 years.*

A: *The land will not be "worthless" – the approximately 380 acres of land where the mining will occur can be repurposed for recreational parks, etc. The remainder of the site, more than 1100 acres, we expect will be able to be reused for a wider variety of purposes – from residential to farming to commercial development to golf course, etc. (See our response to questions 16 and 20.)*

48. What are the potential options for redevelopment of mine property that has been closed and fenced off to the public?

A: *With our progressive reclamation plans, the mine property could be repurposed for a multitude of uses when our operations are complete. See our response to questions 16 and 20.*

49. How will you deal with holdouts who just don't want to sell or move?

A: *Neighbors who have not contracted with us are under no obligation to sell or leave. We are working very hard to minimize the impact of the project on the environment and community and intend to be a good neighbor in our area.*

50. For water collected FROM the MINE where does it go, how is it treated, how is it discharged into streams and waterways?

A: *Any water that goes into the mine pit area will then be pumped into a sedimentation pond. That water will remain there until we pump it out after it has been allowed to rest, test, and treat (if necessary). After resting, we will test it to understand if there are any constituents above allowable limits, and then it will be treated, if necessary. A portion of the water will be recycled for use in our concentrator plant and for dust suppression. Prior to any release, we must ensure we meet permit requirements that will be established by the State.*

A: *We do not expect to materially change the composition of the groundwater. In fact, in cases in which we treat elevated levels of naturally occurring arsenic in the groundwater before discharging it, we will return the water in better condition than we found it.*

51. You talked of discharge ponds and sediment basins designed to "25-year flood specifications." Isn't it likely we will see one or more flood events that would overwhelm your designed plan?

A: *They are designed according to a 25-year flood event, per North Carolina's requirements. However, we have designed the capacity for five times the amount of water that is anticipated for one of those events. If extensive flooding occurred in the area, we would follow protocols to control and manage our ponds and basins.*

52. What is the fallout from a flood that overwhelms your system? Where would untreated water go? What COULD be in that water?

A: *As noted in our response to question 51, the sedimentation basins are being designed to hold five times the amount of a 25-year flood event. Also, the water collected in the basins is stormwater, and the water collected in the ponds is stormwater and water from our pits – not process water that has been used in our facilities.*

A: *We believe there is only a small likelihood of a flood event that would temporarily overwhelm our system. However, if such an event occurs, water could be discharged into local waterways (i.e., Beaverdam Creek) without appropriate treatment during the flooding period. The water could contain higher concentrations for a short period of time than the proposed limits that may be prescribed by the NCDEQ for vanadium, aluminum, and arsenic (naturally occurring). Based on our modeling, we believe these concentrations, even if untreated, would not pose a significant threat to the health of local waterways and ecosystems. While it is not common for these types of events to happen, exceeding discharge limits by industrial, commercial, residential, and agricultural operations is very common during such an extraordinary weather event. We would be required to report such an event to NCDEQ.*

53. What process are you using to ensure that suspended materials in the basins don't escape?

A: *Our sedimentation basins are being designed to provide a residence time to allow water to settle as it is tested and treated (if necessary) before being discharged. That period is three days. These basins will be monitored and the water tested, with treatment, as needed, and subject to permit requirements.*

54. Given the natural occurrence of arsenic and other heavy metals in the soil, isn't there a risk of discharging those elements into streams and waterways?

A: *Any water from our site that has the potential to contact soils or property on our site will be captured in sedimentation basins where the water will be tested and treated, if necessary; therefore, the risk for discharging arsenic and other heavy metals would be unlikely. Again, these basins will be monitored and are subject to permit requirements.*

55. How many wells are within 1 mile of the currently proposed mine?

A: *We do not have knowledge of these details at this time because many wells are not registered. See our response to question 17.*

56. What is the average depth of these wells?

A: *We do not have knowledge of these details at this time. The County has indicated that it will embark on a new well survey and that study may provide this information.*

57. How many wells would be impacted by the project?

A: *See our response to question 4.*

58. What are the possible impacts?

A: *See our response to question 4.*

59. You discussed a water line for homes, what about people who do not want to be on municipal water?

A: *As noted, if any neighboring property's well is impacted due to our project, we have multiple options, and we plan to work on a case-by-case basis to determine the most optimal, sustainable solution for that property owner. (See our response to question 4 for additional details.)*

60. If there is a water line built, how long would it take after a well ran dry or was contaminated to get a person connected to the water line?

A: *See our response to question 4. And, please note that while we expect there to be some limited impact to well water availability, we do not expect to materially change the quality of the groundwater in the area.*

61. What about agricultural water use, who would pay a farmer's water bill?

A: *As noted, if any neighboring property's well water availability is impacted due to our project, we would work on a case-by-case basis to determine the most optimal, sustainable solution for that property owner. Part of that solution includes a payment to the impacted property owner. (See our response to question 4 for additional details.)*

62. *"The Outotec lithium hydroxide process – a novel direct leach process for producing battery-grade lithium hydroxide from spodumene." "The process concept and the results of the recent pilot test work were presented at the ALTA 2019 conference in Perth, Australia."* Is it true that your proposed Tennessee plant will be one of the first plants to be built on the basis of this innovative process?

A: *Metso's pressure leaching technology is currently used in other processes, including gold. There are a few operations currently in construction with plans to use Metso's process for lithium hydroxide conversion, and there should be several to implement it before our planned Tennessee Lithium operation, including in the United States. However, Tennessee Lithium is expected to be our first project to utilize this technology – prior to its planned use at Carolina Lithium.*

63. Are there ANY such plants currently in the U.S?

A: *The Tesla Lithium project in Texas is currently building a plant that is expected to use this pressure leach conversion process. It is expected to be the first to use Metso's technology for lithium hydroxide production.*

A: *The alkaline pressure leach technology replaces traditional acid roasting with primarily steam and pressure to convert spodumene concentrate to lithium hydroxide. Pressure leaching is common in other mineral and metal industries, including in the production of aluminum and in the refining of certain types of gold ores.*

A: *The largest gold operation in the world, Nevada Gold Mines, uses autoclaves to pressure leach gold ore. This process is very similar to lithium pressure leaching and has a strong track record.*

A: *In addition to this innovative technology, our proposed lithium hydroxide plant is being designed to use many operations that are currently widely used in the lithium industry today. These steps include operations like calcination, grinding, filtration, impurity removal, crystallization, and packaging.*

64. How many plants in the world use this process?

A: *In the lithium industry, there are currently two projects under construction which will use pressure leach technology: Telsa Lithium in Texas and Keliber Lithium in Finland.*

There was a project in Russia under development with Halmek Lithium, but this project was stopped due to sanctions.

There are numerous companies working on technical studies for pressure leach development in Europe, Australia, and Canada.

65. Where are they located?

A: *See our response to question 64.*

66. Who at Piedmont Lithium has experience with this process?

A: *Our senior leadership team has nearly 200 years of experience in mineral exploration, mining, and mining construction and more than 65 years in the lithium industry. The team also includes former employees of both FMC (now Livent Corporation) and Albemarle Corporation, who are specifically experienced in the hard rock production of lithium hydroxide. Our partners also are well versed in pressure leach technology, with operational experience from Nevada Gold Mines at our engineering consulting firm, Primero, and a broad depth of knowledge in design development from our technology partner at Metso.*

67. What are the environmental advantages of using this process?

A: *There are several significant environmental advantages to pressure leach conversion vs. traditional acid roasting and there are advantages of developing hard rock assets like Carolina Lithium versus alternate sources of lithium.*

- *The process eliminates the use of large volumes of concentrated sulfuric acid in our process. This is safer for our employees.*
- *The tailings from our process would be inert and slightly alkaline, instead of the tailings from the acid roasting, which can have residual sulfuric acid associated with them and so they must be treated before they can be disposed of.*
- *Pressure leaching has fewer air emissions than acid roasting.*
- *This process eliminates the production of sodium sulfate as a byproduct of manufacturing of lithium hydroxide. While sodium sulfate has some commercial applications, its use is greatly declined in the U.S. over the past several decades and therefore it is considered as a waste stream that would require specialized waste handling.*
- *Our tailings would have potential commercial applications in road construction, concrete, or similar applications and we are evaluating this potential.*

68. What concerns do you have about using such a new and untested process?

A: *We do not see pressure leach as having greater risk than other hard rock conversion technologies that are currently in use in the market. We believe that this is the right technology for Carolina Lithium because:*

- *It is more environmentally friendly compared with traditional technologies.*
- *Other than the pressure-leach autoclave, we would use unit processes that are already widely in use in the lithium industry today.*
- *The pressure leach has been extensively piloted by Metso using different lithium ores from all over the world including all of Piedmont's ores from North Carolina and Canada.*
- *We are not in a first-mover position and there are others, including Tesla, who will bring this technology to market first.*

69. Can you explain in lay terms why the process you plan to use to convert lithium in the conversion plant is safer from an environmental standpoint than the processes used in Australia and South America and other places?

A: *Traditional lithium conversion relies on an acid leaching process. A sulfuric acid-process is the most widely used lithium extraction method; this method is problematic, as it can lead to the release of sulfur emissions, posing threats to human health, air quality, and the environment. Acid leaching often generates wastewater containing metals and other pollutants, and if these are not properly managed, they can pollute ecosystems in the water and soil.*

A: *We plan to use a pressure leaching process by Metso, which primarily utilizes steam and pressure. This innovative process provides a sodium-sulfate free method for producing lithium hydroxide.*

70. Are you willing to offer as a zoning condition that you won't use the chemical processes these other countries have used?

A: *We would be willing to discuss these kinds of conditions in a Community Development Agreement negotiation.*

71. We understand that you currently do not have a set site plan and design of the proposed facility. Is this partially due to the fact that you are not 100% through with defining your processes and how the facility will function?

A: *Our facility design for Carolina Lithium is at a feasibility level of engineering definition today. We have defined all of the major process functions and their locations of the proposed project at this time, but some details remain to be decided. As we continue to work with various agencies through permitting, adjustments may need to be made based on their feedback.*

A: *We expect to have the necessary site plan and design materials prepared in due course and as would be required for the rezoning process.*

72. If this is true, how do you know for certain, what chemicals will be used, what tailings will remain? What blasting and crushing will need to look like? really anything?

A: *The major process functions of our proposed project have been determined at this time, which includes all chemicals to be used throughout the process.*

A: *Based on the work we have completed over the past six years including extensive modeling and process test work, we have a clear understanding of the process inputs, product qualities, and tailings qualities from the project. We do not expect our design to materially change through the course of our permit review, but we may have to adapt certain elements of our design to conform to permit conditions.*

A: *See questions 3 and 12 for information about blasting.*

73. What steps are being taken to finish the process and when do you anticipate being finished?

A: *The process we have defined for our Carolina Lithium has been the basis used for all of our permit applications that have been submitted to NCDEQ. Any modifications to design will depend on feedback from agencies through the permitting process. Timing of permit receipts are not known at this time.*

74. What type of waste materials comes from this process?

A: *The lab will have small amounts of hazardous waste that will be disposed of properly offsite. Our conversion facility tailings, which will be non-hazardous, will be disposed of offsite at a properly permitted disposal location. Our concentrator tailings will be sand-like crushed rock that will be co-mingled with our waste rock and used in reclaiming the pits.*

A: *We will also have what we call waste rock, which is simply rock that doesn't have lithium or any of our byproduct materials in them. Waste rock is not hazardous, and it will go back into our pits for progressive reclamation which will be co-mingled with the non-hazardous, sand-like, crushed-rock tailings from our concentrator plant.*

75. What material will have to be shipped off-site, and why?

A: *The materials shipped offsite will include our normal plant trash (collected in dumpsters or compactors) and our lithium hydroxide plant tailings which will go to a local landfill. The lab waste (hazardous and non-hazardous) will be disposed of at a properly designed and permitted disposal site.*

A: *Normal plant waste and lab waste are shipped due to normal plant operations. The lithium hydroxide plant tailings may have some beneficial reuse that we're currently exploring and looking for aggregate recycling, but in the interim they will be disposed of offsite at a properly permitted disposal location.*

76. Can the waste material be deposited in a regular landfill?

A: *Our everyday waste from offices and other areas can be disposed of in a regular landfill. For more information about waste disposal, please see question 74.*

77. What is the volume of this waste material?

A: *At this time, we cannot predict the amount of normal plant or lab waste. We do expect to have about 400,000 metric tons per year of lithium hydroxide tailings material. The amount of waste rock with concentrator tailings, which will be used to reclaim the pits, will vary based on location of mining and the amount of waste rock near the active mining area.*

78. Originally it was thought that all the excess ore and tailings from both of your onsite facilities would return to the pits as reclamations materials. Now we understand that due to testing, there have been materials discovered that can't return to the ground.
    - What are those materials & why are they concerning?
    - Are they naturally occurring or are they created by your processes?
    - What will be done with them?
    - If they are to be hauled away, how many vehicles will it require and at what frequency?

    A: *The excess rock – or waste rock – and non-hazardous concentrator tailings (the crushed, sand-like material) will remain on site as planned and used in reclamation as described in responses above.*

    A: *We have chosen to dispose of the inert, non-hazardous tailings from our lithium hydroxide conversion facility at an offsite location because of the aluminum, vanadium, and arsenic (naturally occurring) that may leach from them. These elements are not used in the manufacturing process, but, instead, may be released during lithium hydroxide conversion.*

    A: *Based on current production volumes, we expect approximately 50 trucks per day would be needed to haul our conversion facility tailings. The frequency will be determined by the disposal facility we select.*

79. As part of the sampling that has been done on the additional property PL controls, have you found similar "concerning" materials?

    A: *We have not identified other materials of concern.*

    A: *Initial steps of material characterization activities included Acid Base Account (ABA) testing, which identified a limited amount of material in the southeast corner of the East Pit to be Potentially Acid Generating (PAG). Further testing, including whole rock elemental analysis, Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), Leaching Environmental Assessment Framework (LEAF) Method 1313, and kinetic testing known as Accelerated Weathering of Solid Materials Using a Modified Humidity Cell (ASTM D 5744-96), indicated that while some of the waste rock material appeared to have the potential to create acidic drainage based on the initial ABA testing, the material does not result in acidic conditions. The leach test results indicate that the waste rock material, thought to be PAG material, actually can be expected to produce alkaline conditions. This occurs because the sulfide minerals, while present, are not significantly "environmentally available"/soluble as compared to the alkaline content of the rock.*

    A: *While the leach testing indicates that acidic conditions are not to be expected from the waste rock, the results suggest that the material has the potential to yield drainage with temporary elevated alkaline conditions (high pH), during the "first flush" of the material, after which the pH quickly returns to within regulatory standard ranges. The test results indicate that the temporary, "first flush" high pH conditions have the potential to yield elevated levels of pH-dependent constituents, such as aluminum and vanadium. Test results also indicate that a small portion of the waste rock in the southeast area of the East Pit has the potential to occasionally yield elevated levels of arsenic that are within the range of the naturally occurring levels found in the background (present under pre-mining conditions). In response to the results of the more advanced laboratory testing, we are working with regulatory agencies to finalize our material handling, monitoring, and mitigation plans to accommodate the potential for any issues, including the high-pH "first flush" scenario.*

80. Do you have reclamation plans showing what the site will look like after rehabilitation? Can you show us engineering plans of what the site will look like after you leave?

A: *We do not have a rendering available at this time to demonstrate the landscape. We have submitted proposed reclamation plans as part of our state mining permit application, but these do not include potential post-operational uses.*

A: *We want the site to be a place that benefits the community in the future, and we plan to work with stakeholders to determine the best use. For example, it could be a park, greenway, trail, industrial use, or a combination of these. See our response to questions 16 and 20 for examples of reclaimed sites.*

81. At least one of the pits will be a lake is that correct?

A: *Of the four pits included in our project plans, we expect three to be backfilled with excavated rock from within the project site. The North pit is not expected to be backfilled but allowed to fill naturally with groundwater and maintained in perpetuity.*

82. Will the lake ever fill up to the shoreline?

A: *The pit may fill up to the level of the water table over time.*

83. How far below the shoreline will the water be?

A: *It will depend upon the depth of the water table below the surface.*

84. How do we address safety concerns of that issue after the mine operation is closed?

A: *We plan to own this portion of our property in perpetuity; therefore any safety concerns after mine operation closure should be brought to our attention.*

85. Will it have to remain fenced in forever?

A: *It is our expectation that this area would remain fenced in order to ensure the safety of those who are not properly trained to be in such an area.*

86. Is there any use for such a lake?

A: *This will be a reclaimed pit not unlike a quarry pit, which we would maintain on our property, and don't expect it to be used for any recreation.*

87. Your permit says the lake will not be stocked with fish; would it be safe for fish? Would the fish be safe to eat?

A: *Without having done any testing on the quality of the water that would accumulate in the lake (due to naturally occurring constituents) we can not speak to the safety for any fishing. But, again, this reclaimed pit is not expected to be used for recreation.*

88. Even if not stocked with fish, fish will naturally occur, if those fish find their way into other waters (via birds, etc.) are there risks to this to our other bodies of water?

A: *See response to questions #87. This pit will not be connected to other bodies of water so the ability to impact other bodies is highly unlikely.*

89. Of greatest concern is how the emissions will impact crops, which crops will be affected, duration of the impacts, and are bio cumulative impacts anticipated?

A: *We do not expect to negatively affect crops. We plan to have robust emission-control equipment in place on all equipment where there is potential to emit a contaminant, and our modeling shows that we will not change the air quality outside of the project boundaries.*

90. Will these impacts be mitigated to offset the financial losses of the agricultural producers?

A: *See response above. We do not expect to negatively affect crops.*

91. Under the air permit, what constituencies will the plant discharge into the air? (the answer will be "under federal guideline limits" but we want them to tell us what the constituencies in the air will be).

A: *Our air permit application shows we have a potential to emit the following from our entire integrated site: Particulate Matter (PM) (total, 10, 2.5), Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), Sulfuric Acid (H2SO4), Greenhouse gases (CO2), Methane (CH4), Nitrous Oxides (N2O), Lead, Acetaldehyde, Acrolein, Arsenic, Benzene, Beryllium, 1,3- Butadiene, Cadmium, Chromium, Cobalt, Dichlorobenzene, Formaldehyde, Hexane, Hydrochloric Acid (HCl), Hydrogen Fluoride (HF), Manganese, Mercury, Naphthalene, Nickel, Polycyclic Organic Matter (POM), Selenium, Toluene, Xylene.*

A: *Yes, we plan to maintain these potential emissions within federal, state, and local guidelines and within our permit requirements by utilizing robust emission-control equipment. Again, our modeling indicates that we will not change the air quality outside of the project boundaries.*

92. Has PL given any assurance that the Gaston County Commissioners have already committed to approve this project?

A: *No.*

93. Do you have reason to believe that the Gaston County Commissioners are biased either for OR against Piedmont Lithium in any way?

A: *No.*

94. Has Gaston County made staff available to you to assist Piedmont Lithium as you work towards seeking Commission approval for rezoning?

A: *Yes.*

95. As to BOTH the staff of Gaston County and the Board of County Commissioners, do you believe you have been fairly treated?

    A: *Yes*

96. Has anyone made any promises to you regarding the outcome of the rezoning process?

    A: *No.*

97. Are you willing to work with our staff and attorneys to establish land use conditions that go beyond the minimums required of you by the mining permit?

    A: *We have already been doing so and will continue to do so.*

98. Our attorneys have told us that the state can only hold you to a $1 million bond for closure of the mine. Are you willing to accept a much higher bond from us to ensure closure?

    A: *As stated in our presentation, we are offering to provide a higher bond amount for reclamation purposes. The specific amount may be negotiated in the community development agreement process.*

99. If individuals that have made deals with Piedmont Lithium are unhappy with those agreements, would your company be willing to discuss changing those agreements?

    A: *We believe in open communications in all of our landowner partnerships.*

100. Your CEO Keith Phillips came from Maxit Capital -Maxit Capital LP is an independent advisory firm with expertise in mergers and acquisitions with a particular capability in mining transactions – can you tell us with 100% certainty WHO will own this mining project if it is approved?

    A: *We have no interest in being purchased by a foreign company.*

    A: *Piedmont Lithium is a U.S. public company, which is ultimately owned by its shareholders, including some residents of Gaston County. As such, we have a certain responsibility to operate in the interest of our shareholders.*

    Our stated mission is to build a large, sustainable lithium manufacturing business to serve the electric vehicle and battery supply chain here in the United States on an integrated basis, using lithium resources that we own or in which we've invested. Our priority – as we have demonstrated over the past several years – has been to expand our business and accumulate, develop, and operate quality lithium projects here in the United States and abroad.

    A: *No matter what company hypothetically owns the project – whether they be American, German, Australian, etc. – they would have to abide by the same permits, regulations, and agreements as Piedmont Lithium.*

101. Why was Mr. Phillips not at your presentation?

A: *This presentation, as we understood it, was intended to answer technical questions provided to us by the County Commissioners. Unlike our engineers, Keith Phillips is not a technical expert on water, air, blasting, and so forth. CEOs traditionally do not attend technical meetings. However, if we had known that the Commission expected to see Mr. Phillips present at the meeting, he certainly would have made every effort to be there.*

Forward-Looking Statements

This discussion contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of or as described in securities legislation in the United States and Australia, including statements regarding expected economic and other benefits of the Carolina Lithium Project; exploration, development, construction, production and permitting activities of the Carolina Lithium Project; current plans for our mineral and chemical processing projects; and environmental and other impacts of the Carolina Lithium Project. Such forward-looking statements involve substantial and known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other risk factors, many of which are beyond our control, and which may cause actual timing of events, results, performance or achievements and other factors to be materially different from the future timing of events, results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such risk factors include, among others: (i) that we may be unable to commercially extract mineral deposits, (ii) that our properties may not contain expected reserves, (iii) risks and hazards inherent in the mining business (including risks inherent in exploring, developing, constructing and operating mining projects, environmental hazards, industrial accidents, weather or geologically related conditions), (iv) uncertainty about our ability to obtain required capital to execute its business plan, (v) our ability to hire and retain required personnel, (vi) changes in the market prices of lithium and lithium products, (vii) changes in technology or the development of substitute products, (viii) the uncertainties inherent in exploratory, developmental and production activities, including risks relating to permitting, zoning and regulatory delays related to our projects and project partners, (ix) uncertainties inherent in the estimation of lithium resources, (x) risks related to competition, (xi) risks related to the information, data and projections related to our equity investees, (xii) occurrences and outcomes of claims, litigation and regulatory actions, investigations and proceedings, (xiii) risks regarding our ability to achieve profitability, enter into and deliver product under supply agreements on favorable terms, our ability to obtain sufficient financing to develop and construct our projects, our ability to comply with governmental regulations and our ability to obtain necessary permits, and (xiv) other uncertainties and risk factors set out in filings made from time to time with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Australian Securities Exchange, including our most recent filings with the SEC. The forward-looking statements, projections and estimates are given only as of the date of this press release and actual events, results, performance and achievements could vary significantly from the forward-looking statements, projections and estimates presented in this press release. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intent or obligation to update publicly such forward-looking statements, projections, and estimates, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additionally, we, except as required by applicable law, undertake no obligation to comment on analyses, expectations or statements made by third parties in respect of us, our financial or operating results or our securities.