

# **Community Advisory Panel 2025 January to June Review**

Kings Mountain Mine Project

July 2025



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## Meeting Information

The Albemarle Kings Mountain Community Advisory Panel (CAP) meets on the third Thursday of the month; the CAP met five times during the first half of 2025. All meetings were facilitated by Kristi Moore, Environmental Resources Management, Inc. (ERM; third-party support). CAP meeting locations rotated for the first half of year and are listed in the 2025 meeting schedule below.

### 2025 Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Location
January 23, 2025	Trackview Hall, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
March 20, 2025	The Skillet, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
April 24, 2025	Albemarle Technology Center for Research and Development, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
May 15, 2025	Earl Scruggs Center, Shelby, North Carolina
June 19, 2025	Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, Kings Mountain, North Carolina

### Member Organizations

Organization
Albemarle Employee
Catawba Nation
City of Kings Mountain Elected Officials
City of Kings Mountain Emergency Responders
Cleveland Community College
Cleveland County Elected Officials
Cleveland County Public Health Department
Cleveland County School District
Cleveland County YMCA
Community Member(s) Adjacent to Albemarle Property
Davidson Association
Faith-based Organization
Kings Mountain Gateway Trails Inc.
Kings Mountain Rotary Club
Kings Mountain Small Business Owner(s)
Southern Arts Society
Young Professionals

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report and discussions that follow contain statements concerning Albemarle U.S., Inc.'s (Albemarle) expectations, anticipations, and beliefs regarding the future, which constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements, which are based on assumptions that Albemarle has made as of the date hereof and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, often contain words such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "guidance," "intend," "may," "outlook," "scenario," "should," "would," and "will." Forward-looking statements may include statements regarding plans and expectations for the Kings Mountain Mine and activities, and all other information relating to matters that are not historical facts. Factors that could cause Albemarle's actual results to differ materially from the outlook expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement include: changes in economic and business conditions; financial and operating performance of customers; timing and magnitude of customer orders; fluctuations in lithium market supply, demand and prices; production volume shortfalls; increased competition; changes in product demand; availability and cost of raw materials and energy; technological change and development; fluctuations in foreign currencies; changes in laws and government regulation; regulatory actions, proceedings, claims or litigation; cyber-security breaches, terrorist attacks, industrial accidents or natural disasters; political unrest; changes in inflation or interest rates; volatility in the debt and equity markets; acquisition and divestiture transactions; timing and success of projects; performance of Albemarle's partners in joint ventures and other projects; changes in credit ratings; and the other factors detailed from time to time in the reports Albemarle files with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including those described under "Risk Factors" in Albemarle's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are filed with the SEC and available on the investor section of Albemarle's website ([investors.albemarle.com](http://investors.albemarle.com)) and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this presentation. Albemarle assumes no obligation to provide any revisions to any forward-looking statements should circumstances change, except as otherwise required by securities and other applicable laws.

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## 2. ORDERS OF BUSINESS

### 2.1. 2025 AGENDA ITEMS

Table 1 outlines the topics that were discussed at the Albemarle Kings Mountain Community Advisory Panel (CAP) meetings from January to June 2025. Over this period, eight Albemarle subject matter experts and three guest speakers presented to the CAP.

**Table 1: Agenda Topics**

Topic	Speaker
<b>January</b>	
Project Outlook	Kim Hackney, Albemarle, Senior Project Director
Stratification Demonstration	Margot Plonk, Albemarle, Community Education Specialist
Pit Dewatering Update	Claudio Andrade,* Albemarle, Senior Corporate Manager, Environmental Studies and Ron Lindsey, Albemarle, Safety Manager
Look Ahead—2025 CAP	Kristi Moore, ERM, Facilitator
ESIA Scoping Report	Sam Saltman,* Albemarle, Environmental Specialist
<b>March</b>	
Albemarle Corporate Update	Pete Smolowitz,* Albemarle, Senior Director, Media Relations
Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drilling</li><li>• Equipment</li><li>• Pit Dewatering</li><li>• Demolition</li></ul>	Henry Walqui, Albemarle, Interim Senior Project Director, Scott Hutchins, Albemarle, Manager Resource Development and Brayden Beaver,* Albemarle, Mechanical Project Engineer
Community Affairs Update	Margot Plonk, Albemarle, Community Education Specialist and Cindy Estridge, Albemarle, Community Affairs Operations Specialist
<b>April</b>	
Kings Mountain Mine Site Tour	Cindy Estridge, Albemarle, Community Affairs Operations Specialist, Brayden Beaver,* Albemarle, Mechanical Project Engineer, Kwame Frempong,* Albemarle, Lead Resource Geologist, Willie Linares,* Albemarle, Geologist and Scott Hutchins, Albemarle, Manager Resource Development

Topic	Speaker
<b>May</b>	
Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitting</li> <li>• Pit Dewatering</li> <li>• Controlled Drilling</li> </ul>	John Kuhn,* Albemarle, Environmental Permitting Lead and Scott Hutchins, Albemarle, Manager Resource Development
Albemarle Research and Technology	Job Rijssenbeek,* Albemarle, Vice President Research and Development
Community Affairs Update	Margot Plonk, Albemarle, Community Education Specialist
<b>June</b>	
CAP Bylaws	Kristi Moore, ERM, Facilitator
Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling</li> <li>• Pit Dewatering</li> <li>• Permitting</li> </ul>	Scott Hutchins, Albemarle, Manager Resource Development
Community Affairs Update	Margot Plonk, Albemarle, Community Education Specialist and Cindy Estridge, Albemarle, Community Affairs Operations Specialist
Safety Panel	Brayden Beaver,* Albemarle, Mechanical Project Engineer, Richard Carrol,** Cleveland County Community College, Program Coordinator, Andrew Beal,** Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and Greg Main,** Kings Mountain Fire Department

\*Indicates Albemarle subject matter expert

\*\* Indicates guest speaker

Albemarle = Albemarle U.S., Inc.; ERM = Environmental Resources Management, Inc.

### 2.1.1. 2025 Most Commonly Asked Questions

Table 2 lists CAP members' most frequently asked questions from January to June 2025 (sourced from previous meeting summary reports), along with the Albemarle team's responses as recorded at the time. See below.

**Table 2: Frequently Asked Questions by CAP Members in 2025**

Questions from CAP Members	Responses from the Presenters
What does project completion mean?	Project completion means that all commissioning is done, the mine has reached commercial production, and the project meets design metrics so that everything can be turned over to operations.
What happens to properties that Albemarle has acquired after the demolition of the existing structures has been completed?	The land will be reclaimed; the ground will be leveled, and everything will be taken away.

Questions from CAP Members	Responses from the Presenters
Will all structures that are being demolished be burned or will explosives be used?	No explosives will be used; large equipment will be brought in for structures that are not being burned as part of training for nearby emergency response organizations. Gas will be cut off at each structure and checked for asbestos. It should take a day or day-and-a-half to remove each structure, then Albemarle will reclaim the property.
Will anything be done to the Macedonia Baptist Church on Parkgrace Road?	The church lease does not expire until December 2025. Stained glass windows and some of the brick work have started to be removed by officials/members of the church. We continue to work with them to make sure they have the time they need to relocate; this property is slated for demolition later in order of priority.  First quarter demo properties are those solely owned by Albemarle, nobody lives there, they are completely empty. These properties have been identified as possible safety hazards.
Did you say that turnover of the water in the mine pit usually happens every decade?	Albemarle has two recorded events of the water in the existing mine pit turning over, one in 2018 and one now (2024). It is believed to be a phenomenon that occurs about every 10 years.
If the water in the mine pit turns over, will it turn back; if so, when?	It is anticipated that if that happens it may be this summer; however, Albemarle does not want to wait until summer to try to mitigate the odor. As the lake continues to be drained, and lower levels are reached, higher levels of H <sub>2</sub> S concentration are possible.
As water levels in the mine pit decrease, will the smell continue to be prominent?	The bottom layer of water and sediment in the mine pit has already been identified as having a possible odor. Albemarle anticipates that the water in the mine pit may continue to smell as lower water levels are reached.
Are the H <sub>2</sub> S levels caused by the water in the mine pit turning over harmful?	Monitor readings indicate that everything is under 1 part per million, which is well within the safe zone.
Do you have an estimation for how much lithium being mined will be used for batteries and how much will be used for medicine?	There is no way of knowing that; lithium use will change based on need at the time.
Do any of the mine's permits require Albemarle to state how the land should look after the mine is closed?	State mine permits require an End Use Plan. Albemarle needs to provide the State with what it thinks the vision will be for the land after the mine closes. Albemarle is talking to the community and asking them what they would like to see done with the land after mining is complete.
Are you drilling to avoid buildings?	Albemarle is conducting condemnation drilling to make sure facilities are not being built on top of the resource. It is an expensive mistake.  The Interactive Map on the Albemarle website is planned to be used to indicate drilling locations.

Questions from CAP Members	Responses from the Presenters
Why is some of the drilling being conducted onsite called condemnation?	Areas of the site need to be identified and “condemned” as not having lithium resources and these areas can then be used for maintenance shops or other buildings.
Have there been any great finds from the pit dewatering as the water in the mine pit gets lower?	The bed of a dump truck has been found; it is on one of the benches. There have been pieces of a drill, and an old goat village was also found.
Where can we recycle lithium batteries?	There is a box at the (Kings Mountain) Project Center. Many hardware stores, such as Lowes or Home Depot, will take them back. Recycling lithium batteries is highly recommended.  We anticipate there may be a market in the future for taking back lithium batteries; nickel and cobalt are also valuable elements found in the batteries, making recycling a sensible practice.
Is the lithium-bearing hard-rock mined out of Kings Mountain going to China?	Originally, Albemarle proposed building a lithium conversion facility in South Carolina, but because of the market headwinds, that project is on pause. Albemarle wants to diversify their global conversion network. The lithium needs to be sent to where the customers are. Eighty-five percent is being used for anodes, and primarily those customers are in China. As the lithium supply chain further develops in the Western Hemisphere, Albemarle anticipates that there will be a need for conversion facilities domestically.
How will the lithium get transported?	Concentrate is expected to be put in bulk containers and then transported (by boat, train, etc.). No chemical conversion is done onsite; it is all physical.
It looks like you will not have permits until 2026, does that mean you will start blasting in 2027?	Once all permits are secured, Albemarle expects to make a final investment decision. If approved, then the company plans to begin construction. It will take over 24 months to prepare the building facilities and prepare the old mine.

Albemarle = Albemarle U.S., Inc.; CAP = Albemarle Kings Mountain Community Advisory Panel;  
H<sub>2</sub>S = hydrogen sulfide



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### **3. 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In the first half of 2025, the CAP was successful in sharing information, continuing to provide a channel for two-way dialogue between the Albemarle team and CAP members, adding new members with diverse backgrounds, and fostering meaningful engagement. As a result of feedback from the CAP, Albemarle was able to accomplish the following so far in 2025:

- Requesting to rotate CAP meeting locations to ensure multiple local businesses are supported by Albemarle.

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## **4. FOSTERING A TWO-WAY DIALOGUE**

CAP meetings will continue through 2025 to continue fostering two-way dialogue between Albemarle and the Kings Mountain community. Four additional meetings are scheduled for 2025.

Later this year, CAP members will be asked to brainstorm topics of interest to be covered in 2026 and reflect on their commitment for the coming year.