

Community Advisory Panel 2026 January thru June Review

Kings Mountain Mine Project

July 2026



Meeting Information

The Albemarle Kings Mountain Community Advisory Panel (CAP) is scheduled to meet monthly, except for July and December, which are designated as break months. CAP members voted in 2025 to change the structure and cadence of the 2026 meetings to better meet the CAP's objectives. Members decided to hold formal meetings every other month beginning in January 2026 and informal meetings on the off months beginning in February. Meetings continue to take place on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise approved by members.

The format for formal meetings did not change; presentations were given by subject matter experts on topics of interest and included group discussion with an opportunity to ask questions. Informal meetings were structured like open houses where CAP members dropped by the Albemarle Project Center to visit with project personnel and get questions answered or simply to touch base with the project team.

The CAP met five times during the first half of 2026. All meetings were facilitated by Kristi Moore, independent subcontractor of Environmental Resources Management, Inc. See schedule below for a list of meeting dates and locations.

2026 Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Location
January 15, 2026	Formal: Trackview Hall, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
February 20, 2026	Informal: Albemarle Project Center, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
March 19, 2026	Formal: The Summit, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
April 16, 2026	Informal: Albemarle Project Center, Kings Mountain, North Carolina
May 21, 2026	Formal (tour of mine site): Albemarle Technology Center for Research and Development, Kings Mountain, North Carolina

Member Organizations

Organization
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 Small Business Owner(s)
Southern Arts Society
Young Professionals

CONTENTS

1. Introduction1

 1.1. Forward-Looking Statements1

2. Orders of Business2

 2.1. 2026 Agenda Items2

 2.1.1. 2026 Most Commonly Asked Questions3

3. Fostering a Two-Way Dialogue5

List of Tables

Table 1: Agenda Topics 2

Table 2: Frequently Asked Questions by CAP Members in 2026 3

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 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 prices; potential production volume shortfalls; increased competition; changes in product demand; availability and cost of raw materials and energy; technological changes and developments; fluctuations in foreign currencies; changes in laws and government regulations; 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) and on the SEC's website at 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.

2. ORDERS OF BUSINESS

2.1. 2026 AGENDA ITEMS

Table 1 outlines the topics discussed at the Albemarle Kings Mountain Community Advisory Panel (CAP) meetings from January through June 2026. Over this period, five Albemarle subject matter experts presented and/or were available during informal meetings.

Table 1: Agenda Topics

Topic	Speaker
January: Formal	
Project Update • Permitting • Demolition • Pit Dewatering • Drilling Community Affairs Update	Henry Walqui, Sr. Project Director* Ryan Dean, U.S. Public Affairs Manager Cindy Estridge, Community Affairs Manager Margot Plonk, Community Education Specialist
February: Informal	
Subject matter experts and staff available for discussion	Brayden Beaver, Mechanical Project Engineer* Scott Hutchins, Manager Resource Development* Terry Hill, Mine Safety Lead* Cindy Estridge, Community Affairs Manager
March: Formal	
Project Update • Pit Dewatering • Completion of 2025 Drilling Campaign Land Use – Wellman Property Community Affairs Update	Scott Hutchins, Manager Resource Development* Scott Hutchins, Manager Resource Development* Ryan Dean, U.S. Public Affairs Manager Margot Plonk, Community Education Specialist
April: Informal	
Subject matter experts and staff available for discussion	Henry Walqui, Sr. Project Director* Terry Hill, Mine Safety Lead* Cindy Estridge, Community Affairs Manager Margot Plonk, Community Education Specialist Vega Weston, Community Affairs Associate
May: Formal (tour of mine site)	
Kings Mountain Mine Tour	Brayden Beaver, Mechanical Project Engineer* Gabe Merritt, Safety, Security, and Emergency Response Manager* Henry Walqui, Sr. Project Director* Scott Hutchins, Manager Resource Development*

*Indicates Albemarle U.S., Inc. subject matter expert

2.1.1. 2026 Most Commonly Asked Questions

Table 2 lists CAP members' most frequently asked questions from January through June 2026 (sourced from previous meeting summary reports), along with the Albemarle team's responses as recorded at the time.

Table 2: Frequently Asked Questions by CAP Members in 2026

Questions from CAP Members	Responses from the Presenters
<i>Questions regarding pit dewatering</i>	
How much water was in the pit?	About 1.3 – 1.6 billion gallons of water was in the pit.
How long will the pumping continue?	Pumping is ongoing. Once the last bit of water is drained, pumping will be on demand to remove rainwater.
<i>Questions referring to the drilling campaign and future mining</i>	
How big will the holes be? Will there be more noise?	Holes will be about a third larger, tubes will be bigger. There will be no more noise than what was heard in the 2025 campaign. We used noise curtains in 2025 that will be used again.
Will you need to drill the Gateway Trail more?	Unsure; there may be areas we missed; it is highly likely.
What type of degree to people need to conduct the modeling?	Most are geologists by trade; some are environmental and resource geologists. This type of work can be learned; however, it is a bit of an art. Typically people start as a field geologist and work into modeling. They use a lot of math.
Do you have enough room at the bottom of the pit to mine so that you don't have to start at the top and go down?	Albemarle has a sequence of mining and anticipates being able to dig for the next 4–6 years without having to dig deeper.
What is the height difference?	The pit is about 1,000 feet from the tallest point to the deepest point.
How accurate have your guesses been on the ore so far?	The accuracy of the model has been very, very good. Resource drilling will never stop. As we get closer to production, we will need to make drill holes closer together so that we can be certain where to drill for resource and to confirm assumptions.
What is the orange coloring on the rock?	Iron, which is rust on the rock walls.
Is there any iron in the lithium rocks?	Some iron may be present in the rocks, but in small amounts (1% of iron in lithium rocks).
What are the poles in the center of the pit?	The poles are from barges that were built to drill into the pit to determine where the lithium deposits are. The drill holes were installed in 2017 and 2018, and what remains are the drill holes and poles that broke off during drilling operations.
What happens after lithium is crushed?	The lithium will look like a sugar powder, and remaining byproducts will be lima bean sized rocks. Sixty percent of what is crushed will be lithium and will be shipped in that state.
Once the lithium is processed does it become flammable?	No, the stop-point in the process does not make lithium flammable.
Will you be selling gravel or rocks that do not contain lithium?	Rocks that do not contain lithium will be going to Martin Marietta and the profits from those processed rocks will go to a local nonprofit to be established by Albemarle.

Questions from CAP Members	Responses from the Presenters
How much waste rock will go to Martin Marietta?	Sixty percent of the gravel dug from the pit will go to Martin Marietta. The remaining will be stockpiled onsite.
Was Martin Marietta originally here or did they come after the pit was created?	Martin Marietta opened in the 1970s, the same time as the pit.
When is construction done?	We are 35% into engineering and we are still presenting and waiting on permits to continue construction.
What is the next step in the process?	We will be drilling horizontally across the pit to see where the remaining lithium deposits are located.
Where is the largest lithium export?	Chile is the largest producer of lithium.
Questions regarding land use – Wellman Property	
How many homes are planned to be built (referring to proposed development on Wellman Property)?	About 700.
Comment: Residents are going to be concerned about the dam and the floodplain level.	The developer is trying to stay on the high side and will create gentle gradients. Wetland surveys have been done, and Albemarle requested the developer leave as big a buffer as possible. In the long run, the development should increase property values.
Could the layout change?	Yes, this is a conceptual plan, however, it is not under Albemarle's purview. The City's Planning and Zoning Department should provide opportunity to give feedback. Albemarle has a purchase agreement, but the Wellman property is not sold yet. The City will need to approve and rezone before the sale is final.
What is happening with the Gateway Trail?	Albemarle will be doing feasibility studies seeking an alternative route and continue to work with the Gateway Trail Board, the City, and the County for solutions.
Questions regarding lithium market	
Curious to how the situation in Venezuela, and also with Russia and China may or may not impact the project, along with the change in the price of lithium.	A couple of years ago China dumped lithium in the market. In general, when Albemarle assesses projects that require investing significant funds, we use several guidelines to evaluate the long-term forecasts. Sources are forecasted from a third-party, and price is one of the Z-variables we use. Albemarle took a very conservative approach. All information is in the financial disclosure and is publicly available. When we file our Fourth Quarter earnings (in February) the model we used will be included.

Albemarle = Albemarle U.S., Inc.

3. FOSTERING A TWO-WAY DIALOGUE

CAP meetings will continue in 2026 to help foster two-way dialogue between Albemarle and the Kings Mountain community.

Based on regular feedback received from CAP members throughout the year, topics of interest that may be covered during future meetings include:

- End land use / closure and reclamation
- Blasting
- Workforce development
- Global value of lithium/economy