

Blue Lab at Princeton University

Synopsis of email correspondence between

Mining for the Climate audio series team and Piedmont Lithium representatives

The Blue Lab team in an email exchange dated from July 17, 2023 to September 25, 2023 raised the questions below of Piedmont Lithium representatives for follow-up to an in-person interview conducted earlier that summer. Below Blue Lab has offered excerpts of those questions and the responses provided in writing via email by the Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications and Investors Relations at Piedmont Lithium.

Questions we raised via an email dated 7/17/23:

- Could we see Piedmont's process flow diagrams showing the concentrator plant, dense media separation (including how flocculants will be used), and the chemical operations plant?
- As we mentioned, we're interested in learning more about how Piedmont has acquired land in Gaston County. [You] mentioned that the real estate contractor was on vacation while we were in the area. Would it be possible for us to connect with him remotely in the next couple weeks?
- Would it be possible for you to send along a digital copy of the current project map?

Follow-up questions raised in an email dated 9/11/23:

- Residents have voiced concerns about Piedmont's response should a contamination event due to mining activity occur. Concerns have been expressed both in Piedmont's ability to inform the public and in Piedmont's ability to manage the event. Would you care to comment on procedures Piedmont has in place on this issue?
- The DEQ has asked for comment about the specific characterization of the waste stream of the mine (most recently in their May 30, 2023 letter). Recognizing that this waste profile is contingent on the requirements set out by the Two Rivers plant, can you comment on how Piedmont plans to address the DEQ's request to disclose the specific waste characterization for the mine?
- In our conversation last July, we heard that sulfuric acid will not be used in the lithium hydroxide conversion process. In Piedmont's June 2022 Solid and Liquid Waste Flowsheets, a "byproducts production" process lists sulfuric acid as one of its reagents. Can you elaborate on specifically where and how the sulfuric acid will be used throughout the mine operations?
- Would you comment on how Piedmont plans to transport its wastewater from the mine site to the anticipated uptake point as it approaches the wastewater treatment plant?
- In a letter from Two Rivers Utilities dated on December 2, 2021, Two Rivers writes that "The route to serve the site with sewer has not been determined at this time. Once the route and the proposed discharge volumes are determined, the existing sewer system beyond the proposed connection point will be evaluated to determine if any additional improvements would be required." Would you comment on what additional improvements may be considered beyond the connection point?
- The DEQ in May 2023 asked why Piedmont's reports stipulate monthly testing for pH in the tailings pile, instead of continuous monitoring and without mentioning other forms of testing. Would you like to address this concern?

Written responses provided by Piedmont Lithium via email and dated 9/25/23:

Piedmont Lithium responses are in blue.

Residents have voiced concerns about Piedmont's response should a contamination event due to mining activity occur. Concerns have been expressed both in Piedmont's ability to inform the public

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and in Piedmont's ability to manage the event. Would you care to comment on procedures Piedmont has in place on this issue?

- First, it is important to note that there are no wet tailings in our process, which are usually the source of concern in a mining operation. Without a tailings pond or dam, there is no possibility of a related failure event. We are otherwise excavating rock and not adding contaminants in the process of mining. Naturally occurring contaminants that exist already in the rock, soil, and water, will be managed as described in our prior discussions and according to our permits.
- As for our ability to manage an "event", we have highly experienced mining, engineering, and safety, health, and environment professionals on our team, as well as a couple hundred of the top consultants in these fields guiding the development of this project. We believe we have the ability to manage this project responsibly and sustainably.
- Regarding our ability to inform the public, we intend to appropriately communicate with our neighbors throughout the life of the project, whether about the blasting schedule or any concerns they might have. In the case of an "event", at a minimum, we would follow the requirements of our relevant permits, making the proper notifications to regulators, if needed, and to neighbors. We intend to offer a variety of communications options for our neighbors, including emails, phone calls, texting, signage, a community website, and mailings - in addition to our in-person availability in our Cherryville office, Belmont office, and future project site offices, and our dedicated community relations team members.

The DEQ has asked for comment about the specific characterization of the waste stream of the mine (most recently in their May 30, 2023 letter). Recognizing that this waste profile is contingent on the requirements set out by the Two Rivers plant, can you comment on how Piedmont plans to address the DEQ's request to disclose the specific waste characterization for the mine?

- This question is not clear. If you are referring to #10 in our ADI # 3, DEQ is agreed that we have met the requirements in our previous response.

In our conversation last July, we heard that sulfuric acid will not be used in the lithium hydroxide conversion process. In Piedmont's June 2022 Solid and Liquid Waste Flowsheets, a "byproducts production" process lists sulfuric acid as one of its reagents. Can you elaborate on specifically where and how the sulfuric acid will be used throughout the mine operations?

- Sulfuric Acid will definitely not be used in the mining process - a nor in the lithium hydroxide conversion process. It is not a reagent in the process. We are planning to use the innovative Metso steam pressure leach process instead of an acid roasting method utilizing sulfuric acid.
- However, some sulfuric acid may potentially be used for cleaning purposes in the on-site wastewater treatment and the crystallizers.

Would you comment on how Piedmont plans to transport its wastewater from the mine site to the anticipated uptake point as it approaches the wastewater treatment plant?

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- Gaston County is conducting an Engineering Study to determine this.

In a letter from Two Rivers Utilities dated on December 2, 2021, Two Rivers writes that "The route to serve the site with sewer has not been determined at this time. Once the route and the proposed discharge volumes are determined, the existing sewer system beyond the proposed connection point will be evaluated to determine if any additional improvements would be required." Would you comment on what additional improvements may be considered beyond the connection point?

- Those improvements will have to be determined by Two Rivers, not Piedmont Lithium.

The DEQ in May 2023 asked why Piedmont's reports stipulate monthly testing for pH in the tailings pile, instead of continuous monitoring and without mentioning other forms of testing. Would you like to address this concern?

- Our team is evaluating other parameters that are tested for similar operations and will be providing an updated monitoring plan in our response to ADI # 3.