

# **SOUTHEASTERN ASPHALT**

## **An Open Letter from Jeff, Harper, and Billie Shipman, Owners, Southeastern Asphalt**

To My Community, I was born and raised in Henderson County. I value my home and its beauty. For 23 years, I have been blessed to run a successful business in Henderson County. Through those years I have contributed in many ways to the success and well being of my neighbors. In order to maintain the success of my business in the competitive atmosphere of today, I need to supply my own asphalt which is why I am pursuing building my own plant. My neighbors in the vicinity of the proposed site have raised understandable concerns about the safety and environmental impact of the plant. I wish to address those concerns.

- My plant will not have adverse effects on the community or our visitors. Because I care about my community, I am investing in more expensive equipment which utilizes the latest technology to reduce emissions from the critical components... Contrary to information that has been reported, my plant will not be a 24/7 operation. I plan to run on average only 5 hours per day, 550 hours yearly, 183 operating days producing well under the maximum allowed limit. This will not be an ole timey plant and I will not be an old school asphalt plant owner.
- Our plant will be heavily regulated by the NC Division of Air Quality. "Under these rules, facilities are not allowed to emit pollutants that exceed any of the air toxics limits at or beyond their property lines. Thus citizens living near plants that meet the air toxics rules should not be exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution." (DENR). It might be of interest to you to learn that in one of the most closely monitored emissions categories-- volatile organic compounds (VOC's) a modern asphalt plant gives off in one year what two residential fireplaces do.
- In our present difficult economy, I am proud that the plant will provide 20 new jobs for the community. These include not only the six working directly at the plant, but also the extra personnel needed for the additional work generated.
- I share our community's responsibility to preserve the beauty and sustainability of our community. That is why I made the decision that my plant will not be a clear cut project. Because Spartanburg Highway is a gateway to our county seat, every tree and all vegetation that can be preserved will be preserved. Our site plan shows that all the trees on the Spartanburg Highway and Highway 25 corridor boundary will be preserved. It is my goal that the plant will not be visible to the surrounding areas.
- Your water is my water too. I will be vigilant that my plant does not decrease the quality of our water or stream life. This is especially important to me given the past record of groundwater pollution by a major industry in our area. The asphalt plant will have its own water treatment procedure even before it goes into the stormwater drainage system. This stormwater drainage system is for the protection of our local streams. We invite you to view the detailed plans of our storm water system online at [hendersoncountync/planning](http://hendersoncountync/planning).

I know that communication between myself and the community is very important. To this end I am going to sponsor and participate in a series of community meetings where I can hear and respond to your concerns. The dates and times will be advertised in the media and flyers will be passed out.

I hope you will attend. I want to be a good neighbor and assure you that my plant will not harm the safety or health of our community.

Respectfully,

Jeff Shipman